Hana to Yume COMICS

NATSUME YUUJINCHOU

Midorikawa Yuki 20

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LaLa HC

NATSUME YUUJINCHOU (20)

Midorikawa Yuki

Hakusensha

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Hana to Yume COMICS

(2016 April Edition)

▶COMPILATION BOOK◀

One day, Natsume met a youkai who stuck his head in a jar. As a token of gratitude for helping him, that youkai, Tsukikigui, turn Natsume back to his child form! Along with the transformation, Natsume lost his memory, he even didn't recognize Nyanko Sensei. This is the 20th volume of colorful stories encountering ayakashi.

■LALA PUBLISHING■

Hakusensha

Summary of This Book

One day, Natsume met a youkai who stuck his head in a jar. As a token of gratitude for helping him, that youkai, Tsukikigui, turn Natsume back to his child form! Along with the transformation, Natsume lost his memory, he even didn't recognize Nyanko Sensei. This is the 20th volume of colorful stories encountering ayakashi.

●Midorikawa Yuki's Books

—Hana to Yume COMICS—

Ataru Hikaru Hotaru (Hotaru no Mori e (Into the Forest of Fireflies' Light)

Hitori to Iru (Scarlet Choir) Total 3 Volumes

Natsume Yuujinchou Volume 1-20

—Hana to Yume COMICS Special—

Natsume Yuujinchou Koushiki Fan Book (Natsume Yuujinchou Official Fan Book)

Natsume Eigoban (Natsume's Book of Money)

Natsume Yuujinchou Yuubitsu (Natsume's Book of Friends)

Natsume Sensei Kyuujitsu no Hitobito (Natsume Sensei's Holiday Field Trip

Aizou Ban Hotaru no Mori e (Into the Forest of Fireflies' Light) Treasured Edition)

—Photo Collection・Picture Book・Printed Edition—

Nyanko Sensei Wool Felt Making Kit

—Hakusensha Book Collection—

Akaku Saku Yoi (Red Blooming Night) Total 2 Volumes

Hitori to Iu (Scarlet Choir) Total 2 Volumes

—Hana to Yume COMICS Special LaLa Novels—

Novel • Natsume Yuujinchou (Author/Takeshi Saidaiyuki, Original Work/Midorikawa Yuki)

HC
HANATOYUME COMICS
LaLa

夏目友人帳

20

緑川ゆき

Hana to Yume COMICS

NATSUME YUUJINCHOU

Volume 20

Midorikawa Yuki

This is a work of fiction. It is in no way related
to any real persons, organizations, or events.

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MIDORIKAWA YUKI

夏目友人帳

●なつめゆうじんちょう●

つきひぐいの章

緑川ゆき

THE MORE DAYS WE SPEND TOGETHER, THE MORE MEMORIES WE HAVE ...

★HC最新⑲巻&「夏目」公式ギャグ♥
HCS「ニャンコ先生が行く!」カネチクチュンコ
原作／緑川ゆき ともに絶賛発売中です!

EVER SINCE I WAS YOUNG, I'VE BEEN ABLE TO SEE STRANGE THINGS ...
... SINCE OTHER PEOPLE CAN'T SEE THEM. THEY ARE PROBABLY WHAT MOST WOULD CALL YOUKAI.
COME ON, SENSEI, RUN! GEEZ.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU ATE THE DANGOS I SAVED FOR MY GUESTS.
THEY WERE JUST THERE ON THE DESK, SO I FIGURED THEY WERE TREATS FOR ME~! ♡
ANIMPARADISE
Natsume Yuujinchou
ALL SIX OF THEM ?!
AND HERE TOUKO-SAN WENT OUT OF HER WAY TO BUY THEM FOR ME BECAUSE THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ESPECIALLY GOOD.
Thump
I HOPE THERE'RE STILL SOME MORE IN THE ...
!

Check out our new project:
«There Goes Nyanko-Sensei»
at our FaceBook group in just a few days and have fun reading this warm and fluffy gag comedy while the characters from "Natsume Yuujinchou", appear as cute chibis.

Thump
Thump
Thump
Thump
Thump
?! HUH? WHAT'S THAT SOUND?
... I'M NOT SURE. IT KINDA SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING BANGING TOGETHER. WAS IT COMING FROM UNDER THE BRIDGE?
Thump
Thump
Thump
WHAT'S UP WITH HIM, HE'S GOT A POT ON HIS HEAD!
WHY IS HE BANGING IT AGAINST THE WALL ...?
HOW SHOULD I KNOW?!
!!!

Silence...
Tip Toe
... IT'S AN AYAKASHI. SO LET'S LEAVE BEFORE IT NOTICES US.
GOOD IDEA.
Crash...
... IT DISAPPEARED ...
Ah!
WAA AH !!!!
Lean

ANIMPARADISE
ANIME PARADISE

WHAT DO YOU THINK, SENSEI?
I'D LIKE TO HELP HIM OUT, BUT ... WHAT IF HE'S AN EVIL AYAKASHI THAT'S BEEN SEALED AWAY OR SOMETHING?
HMMM ...
!
I CAN'T GET THE POT OFF, NOR CAN I BREAK IT.
COULD YOU PLEASE PULL IT OFF FOR ME?
AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M NO ONE SUSPICIOUS. PLEASE HELP ME.
I FOUND AN OLD POT, AND I WANTED TO TAKE A QUICK PEEK INSIDE, BUT I GOT COMPLETELY STUCK.
Sniff Sniff
I DON'T SMELLS ANY SPELL OR ANYTHING COMING FROM THAT POT ...
GOT IT ...
!
POP
YOU EXPECT ME TO WORK FOR FREE AGAIN?!
OKAY, I'M GONNA PULL. HEAVE -HO!
UGH- UGH- UGH ...
WHAT?!
NO ONE'S MORE SUSPICIOUS THAN SOMEONE WHO CLAIMS HE IS NOT SUSPICIOUS.
RIGHT, NAT-SUME?
I'LL GET THE POT OFF OF YOU, BUT IF YOU TRY ANYTHING, NYANKO-SENSEI HERE IS GONNA EXORCISE YOU.

* M Tsukihigui literally means "Time-Eater"
HM? DID YOU SAY "TSUKI-HIGUI"?
JL
WELL, WE HAVE TO GO NOW
I DON'T NEED ANYTH ING N RETURN. JUST BE CAREFUL IN THE FUTURE
I SHALL REPAY YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS.
I AM TSUKI-HIGUI*, A MERE TRAVELER
Stagger ...
AS MY THANKS ...
I'LL MAKE YOU YOUNG ONCE MORE.
OH ... WAIT A MINUTE ...
HEY, YOU! WAIT UP!
LISTEN TO ME, DON'T YOU DARE GET ANY UNNECESS -ARY IDEAS, YOU HEAR ME?!
HUH?

AH ...
NIHU PARADIS
GYAAAA!!! NATSUME, YOU'VE BECOME TINY?!
WAAAH! A WEIRD CAT CAN TALK ... !!!
HMM?!
!
... HEY, NATSUME ...
!
Trot Trot ...

… HEY, HOW COME YOU KNOW MY NAME?
WHAT ARE YOU? … A-ARE YOU A TANUKI GHOST …?
AAARGH! THERE'S SO MUCH WRONG WITH THAT STATEMENT THAT I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO START!
Shocked
Flailing
Flailing
WHOA!
HEY, NATSUME …
… DAMN, HIS AGE DISAPPEARED TOGETHER WITH HIS MEMORIES.
DON'T PLEASE DON'T COME ANY CLOSER, TANUKI GHOST!
I'M NOT A TANUKI! IT'S NYANKO-SENSEI!
GAAAHH
WA AA H!

DO YOU KNOW WHERE OR WHEN THIS IS?
HOW OLD ARE YOU NOW?
FORGET ABOUT WHAT I AM FOR NOW.
LET'S SEE, DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU ARE NOW?
HEY, CALM DOWN, NATSUME!
HUH . ?
Startled
· WHAT HAPPENED TO ME? I DON'T UNDERSTAND ·· NOW, I AM ···?
NO ··
REI!
I'M NYANKO-SENSEI, YOUR LIFE SAVER. YOU ARE ETERNALLY INDEBTED TO ME.
YOU'RE MY SERVANT.
LIAR
YOU'RE CURRENTLY A HIGHSCHOOL STUDENT WITH AVERAGE GRADES AND NO GIRLFRIEND.
YOU'RE A FREELOADER LIVING WITH FUJIWARA FAMILY!
... SOUNDS LIKE RATHER THAN HAVING YOUR MEMORY DE-AGED AS WELL, IT'S JUST CONFUSED.
OKAY, LISTEN CAREFULLY:

APTA is a non-profit scanlation group bringing you high-quality manga. All of our releases are labours of love for the manga fan community, intended to make available titles that would be otherwise unattainable. We strongly encourage readers to buy the US releases in order to support the mangaka. Please also remember that these scanlations are intended for private use only.

..
DON'T GIVE ME THAT LOOK, IT'S THE TRUTH.
ANYWAY, LET'S GET HOME, NATSUME, AND THINK OF OUR NEXT MOVE.
GO HOME? ... YOU MEAN TO WHERE THOSE FUJIWARA PEOPLE LIVE?
BUT IF WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS TRUE, TANUKI, IS IT OKAY FOR ME TO SHOW UP LOOKING LIKE THIS?
DAM-MIT.
... YOU'RE RIGHT, THERE'S NO WAY TO EXPLAIN THIS TO TOUKO AND SHIGERU.
MORE IMPORTA-NTLY, IF NATSUME'S MEMORY RETURNS, HE'S PROBABLY GONNA PULL THE FUR OFF MY TAIL
Sensei, how dare you ruin Touko -san and Shigeru -san's ignorant bliss.
Fur from the tail? What tail?
I GUESS THERE'S NO CHOICE, LET'S GO TO THAT NATORI BRAT'S PLACE ...
Sparkling
A kid? What should I give him for dinner, I wonder ... perhaps some milk?
Sparkling
NO GOOD. I HAVE A HUNCH THAT HE'LL BE ABSOLUTELY USELESS.
ANIMAPPRAISE
KIMI WA ARATA

I CAN'T ACCEPT HELP FROM AN AYAKASHI I DON'T EVEN KNOW ALL THAT WELL.
SORRY ...
THANKS FOR WORRYING ABOUT ME BUT I'LL FIGURE IT OUT ON MY OWN
TA TANUKI,
THEN MAYBE THE LOYAL DOGS?" NO, ONE WRONG STEP AND THEY'LL TREAT THIS AS IF NATSUME WOULD HAVE BEEN SPIRITED AWAY ..
Mutter
Mutter
Mutter
HUH? NYANKO-SENSEI, WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS ...?
WHO'S THAT KID?
OH!
IT'S NYANKO-SENSEI!!
Gasp
HEY SENSE S IT OKAY FOR YOU TO TALK THIS LO DLY? AND WHERE'S NATSUME ANYWAY?
JU
MP
THAT TANUMA BRAT AND LITTLE GIRL TAKI!!
EHHH?
GO AHEAD AND LOOK REAAAAL CLOSELY AT THIS BOY.
PLEASE ... DO SOME-THING!!
WHOA ?!
PERFECT TIMING!!

YOU ARE USELESS! IT'S NATSUME HIMSELF!!
NATSUME -KUN'S
NAT-SUME'S
YOUNGER BROTHER?!
...
...
...
WHAT?
IT'S PROBABLY HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT AN AYAKASHI DE-AGED HIM BACK TO HIS CHILDHOOD.
!
... NO WAY
DE-AGED HIM, YOU SAID ...?
I DON'T KNOW! BUT FIRST OF ALL, I'D LIKE TO GET OUT OF HERE.
TANUMA, WE'LL BORROW YOUR PLACE.
O-OKAY ..
SURE.
NATSUME -KUN?!
Sneaking Away
..IS THERE SOME WAY TO TURN HIM BACK.?

Startled
WAIT UP, NATSUME! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
... DO YOU ...
... KNOW ME ..?
... YEAH.
WE'RE YOUR FRIENDS, NATSUME.
NOW LET'S GO TO MY PLACE ... MAYBE YOU'RE SCARED BECAUSE YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE US,
BUT WE KNOW THAT YOU CAN SEE YOUKAI, NATSUME.
WHAT?!
WE'RE CLOSE ENOUGH THAT YOU CAN TELL US THESE THINGS, NATSUME.
COULD YOU JUST BELIEVE US ABOUT THIS, PLEASE?

...
OKAY
...
...
LET'S GO, NATSUME-KUN.
RUSTLE
... RIGHT THERE. CAN YOU SEE THAT TEMPLE UP THERE? THAT'S WHERE I LIVE.
.. WOW!
TANUMA-SAN, YOU LIVE IN A TEMPLE?!
..
WHAT?
...
!

ANIMEPARADISE

...
R-RIGHT! YOU CAN USE "SAN", IT'S TOTALLY OKAY!!
...
...
OKAY
OH! IF IT'S UNCOMFOR TABLE FOR YOU TO CALL ME IN SUCH AN INFORMAL MANNER. IT'S OK
YOU CAN JUST CALL ME TANUMA
AND CALL ME TAKI, OKAY?
HUH?
WOOOSH...
AND OVER THERE, NATSUME! THE SHRINE ON THE TOP OF THOSE STONE STEPS, WE'VE VISITED IT FOR THE FESTIVAL.
! THAT'S RIGHT, NATSUME -KUN.
OH?
AND WE GO FISHING A LOT WITH NISHIMURA AND YOUR OTHER CLASSMATES IN THE RIVER THAT CUTS ACROSS THAT FOOTPATH OVER THERE
WE'VE EVEN MADE FLOWER CROWNS TOGETHER IN THAT FIELD BEFORE.
A LOT OF LOTUSES BLOOM HERE, RIGHT?
THAT. FIELD? OVER THERE? AND OVER HERE, TOO.
IT FEELS KINDA LIKE I KNOW THIS ROAD.
. OH! FOR SOME REASON..

FES-
TIJAL?
YEAH.
FISHING?
YEAH.
...
..
SOUNDS LIKE A FAIRY TALE TO ME!
NO, NATSUME -KUN
THEY ALL REALLY HAPPENED
IT'S ALL TRJE.
SORRY FOR INTRU-SION! I'M COMING IN.
SORRY FOR INTRUSION ..
ANIMPARADISE

Nervous
WELL THEN, NATSUME,
WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER?
...
I'M NOT REALLY SURE
IT'S LIKE MY MIND IS COMPLETELY BLANK.
BUT ALSO I HAVE A AN IMPRESSION THAT MY BODY BECAME TOO LIGHT
THERE'S THIS FEELING THAT SOMETHING ISN'T RIGHT.
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT "SOMETHING" IS
THIS TANU-
CAT GHOST SAYS THAT I'M REALLY A HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENT ...
BUT IT'S REALLY HARD TO BELIEVE.
SENSEI, HOW DID IT HAPPEN ?

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TSUKIHIGUI?
I THOUGHT THE NAME SOUNDED FAMILIAR.
... IT'S THE WORK OF AN AYAKASHI CALLED "TSUKIHI -GUI"
... YES, I RECALL NOW. IT'S A WANDERING AYAKASHI. THEY SAY THAT IT STAYS TO REST IN OLD HOUSES AND BARNS,
AND WHEN IT LEAVES, ONE OLD THING IN THE HOUSE TURNS NEW. THAT'S HOW IT SHOWS ITS GRATITUDE FOR THE STAY ...
THERE'S A RUMOR THAT IT'S AN AYAKASHI WHO HAS POWER TO DE-AGE ANYTHING AND ANYONE, HUMANS AND EVEN ANIMALS. THERE ARE SORCERERS WHO ARE FRANTICALLY LOOKING FOR IT.

ANIMAPARADISE
THERE'S A CHANCE THAT MIGHT WORK …
IF I CAN FIND THIS TSUKIHIGUI AGAIN, AND ASK IF HE CAN TURN ME BACK,
SO,
…
BUT I WANT TO MAKE SURE WHETHER IT'S TRUE OR NOT …
… I'M SORRY …
NAT-SUME!
I'LL GO NOW.
THEN I SHOULD RUN BACK TO WHERE WE CAME FROM!
THAT'S RIGHT.
WHAT CAN A BRAT WHO DOESN'T KNOW WHAT THE AYAKASHI LOOKS LIKE, AND TWO BRATS WHO CAN'T EVEN SEE AYAKASHI DO, HUH?
OH …
HOLD UP!
THEN WE'RE GOING WITH YOU.

JUST THIS ONCE, I'LL DO THE HARD JOB AND GO LOOKING FOR TSUKIHIGUI.
YOU GUYS STAY HERE AND BABYSIT NATSUME.
IF THE AYAKASHI IN THE AREA FIND OUT THAT NATSUME HAS BEEN TURNED INTO A LITTLE KID, THERE WILL BE TROUBLE.
GRRRR
Startled
BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T TURN BACK TO NORMAL, I CAN'T GO HOME AND EAT TOUKO'S DINNER!
... WHY IS AN AYAKASHI DOING SOMETHING LIKE THIS FOR ME?
Running
THANK YOU, NYANKO-SENSEI!
LEAVE NATSUME-KUN TO US!!
Squeeeeeze
GAAAH!

.. INDEED.
BUT THAT HARD, NOT VERY CHILDLIKE EXPRESSION HE GETS FROM TIME TO TIME, LEAVES NO DOUBT THAT IT'S REALLY NATSUME ...
.. IT'S STRANGE, AND HARD TO BELIEVE,
ANIMPARADISE
. AND WHAT WILL WE DO, IF IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO TURN NATSUME-KUN BACK?
I WONDER WHERE ON EARTH SENSEI WOULD'VE BROUGHT NATSUME -KUN?
BUT I'M GLAD IF WE HADN'T SPOTTED THEM ON OUR WAY OVER TO VISIT NATSUME -KUN,
... THERE REALLY ISN'T MUCH WE CAN DO TO HELP IN THESE SITUATIONS ..
.. SORRY. I'M SURE NYANKO-SENSEI WILL FIGURE IT OUT SOMEHOW.
...

WELL, YOU GUYS MIGHT END UP STAYING THE NIGHT,
AND SENSEI WILL BE STARVING WHEN HE GETS BACK
WHAT?
... OKAY! HOW ABOUT WE MAKE SOME STEW?
.. TRUE.
OF COURSE.
YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT. IS IT OKAY IF I JOIN YOU FOR DINNER TOO?
NAT-SUME -KUN!
WE'RE MAKING STEW. WOULD YOU HELP US?
Startled
YE-YES?
EM
... SURE

NIMPARADISE
HEY, YOU, SMALL FRIES! DID YOU SEE A AYAKASHI WITH A FACE THAT LOOKS LIKE IT'S MADE OF WOOD, PASSES BY?
WHERE DID THAT DAMN TSUKI-HIGUI GO?
GEEZ, WHAT A PAIN!
Looking Around
Looking Around
Tap
Tap
tap
Rustle
Rustle
Hey, did you guys see anyone around here
PLEASE DON'T COME ANY CLOSER. TANUKI GHOST
GRRRRRR
...
IF HE'D JUST LEFT THAT POT-WEARING IDIOT ALONE, THIS WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED IN THE FIRST PLACE ..
HE GETS INVOLVED IN ALL KINDS OF TROUBLE TOO EASILY, ANYWAY.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT! IF I ACT NOW, THE BOOK OF FRIENDS WILL EASILY BE MINE.
JUST THINKING ABOUT IT CHEER ME UP A LITTLE.
AH, DAMN. HONESTLY.
Running
Running
MAYBE I SHOULD JUST LEAVE THAT BRAT NATSUME LIKE THIS.

Sniff
Sniff
Sniff
Sniff
Gasp
...HAH!
IT'S THE POT!
DAMN!
TRANSFORM
WELL ... SEEMS I'VE FINALLY FOUND YOU, TSUKI-HIGUI.

Fwooosh
WELL WELL!
Taki could you grab me that one over there please?
Natsume, is the peeler okay?
Using a knife's kinda scary so let's go with the peeler, okay?
Too late! We've already been attacked.
Oh shoot, this onion is tribble! Everybody run away!
Chop
Chop
Chop
Um
Natsume kun, can you wash the rice?
OH!
Splash

THERE IT IS!
… OH?
Clack
Clack
Dash
ARE YOU OKAY, TANJMA -KUN?
I'M FINE· UM, WHERE'S THE WIPING RAG …
AH, I'LL GO GET IT!
HUH?

·· HOW COME I KNOW WHERE THEY KEEP THESE?
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN HERE …

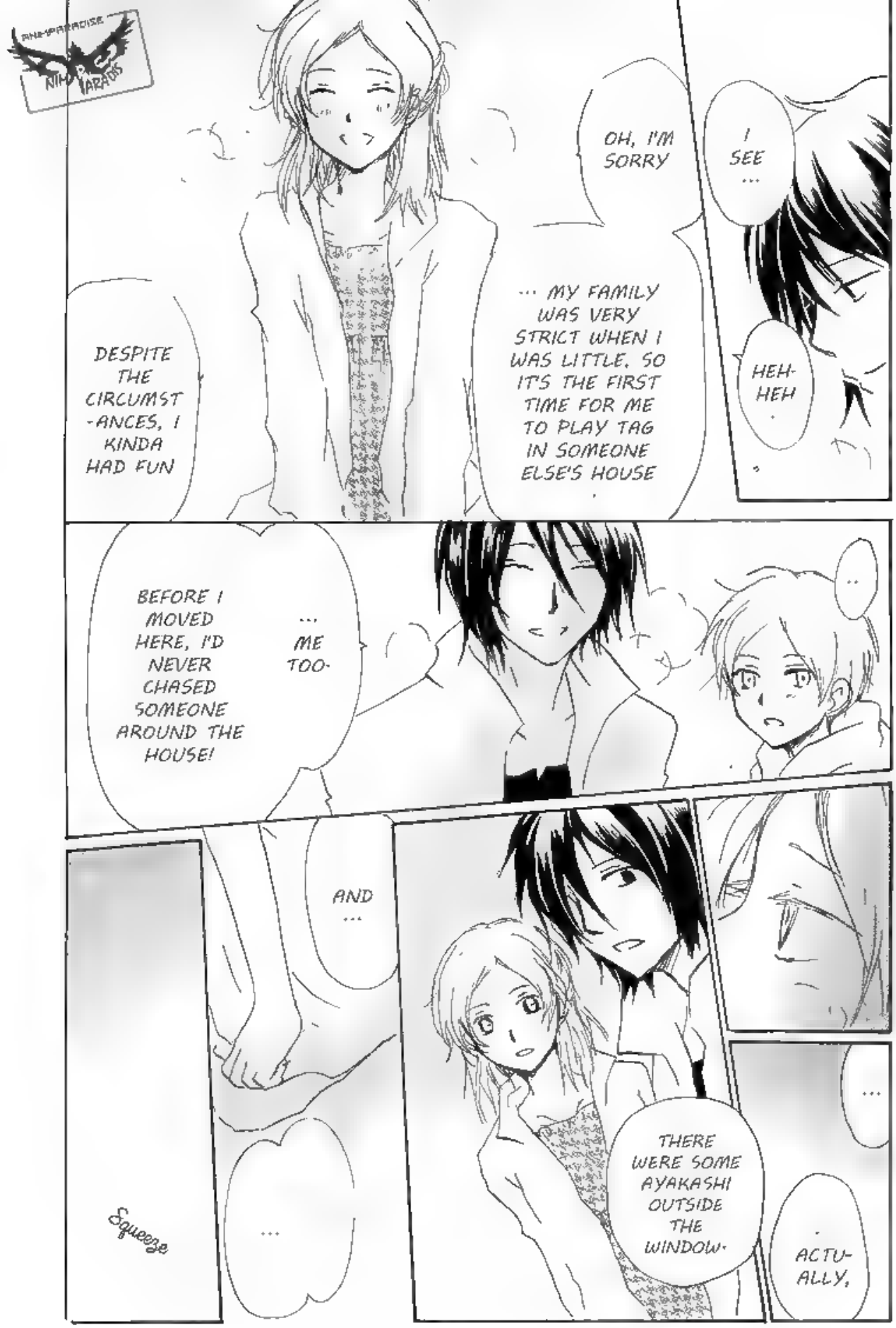
Knock
Knock
MAYBE THOSE TWO ARE REALLY MY FRIE …
… MAYBE · IT'S TRUE
AND ABOUT THE FESTIVAL, ·· AND THE FISHING TOO ··

...
I WON'T GO AWAY!
TANUMA-SAN AND TAKI-SAN ARE BOTH HERE, SO I WON'T LET ANY AYAKASHI IN, NO MATTER WHAT.
OPEN IT
THOSE TWO ARE VERY SCARY AND SNEAKY AYAKASHI. THEY'VE BEEN TRICKING YOU ALL ALONG. I HEARD THEM SAYING THEY WERE GONNA EAT YOU.
IF YOU OPEN UP, I'LL HELP YOU TO ESCAPE FROM HERE.
YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG, I WON'T COME IN.
NO. YOU'RE WRONG.
IF WHAT YOU SAID WERE TRUE, THAT CAT GHOST WOULD NEVER LEAVE ME WITH THEM.
YOU'RE LYING. THOSE TWO WOULDN'T DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

LOOK, IT'S SO LATE AND HE HASN'T RETURNED YET
POOR THING, YOU POOR THING, YOU HAVE BEEN FOOLED!
THAT CAT WAS AFRAID OF BEING EATEN, AND TRICKED YOU SO HE COULD RUN AWAY HIMSELF.
WHA-?
HURRY! HURRY!
THOSE TWO, AND THAT CAT AS WELL,
WE'LL HELP YOU RUN AWAY!
OPEN UP, AND WE'LL SAVE YOU
... HEY, NATSUME.
THEY ALL FOOLED YOU, AND ARE LAUGHING AT YOU BEHIND YOUR BACK.

YOU'RE LYING! GO AWAY!
Gasp
NATSUME?
OH, NAT SUME -KU -
Daaash
NAT- SUME, WHAT HAPP ...
ARGH!
EH?! NAT- SUME ?!
WAAH!

Tap
Tap
Tap
Tap
Tap
Tap
NAT-SUME!
AL-RIGHT!
!
WAIT, NATSUME -KUN!
HE'S ACTING WEIRD. IT'S DANGER-OUS, SO PLEASE CATCH HIM.
TAK!!
Da~sh
NA-NAT-SUME-KUN?!
WHAT' WRONG ?!
ANIMPARADISE
NIMPARADISE
Whee~e
Whee~e
Part
Part
G .. GOTCHA ...
THUD
... I SEE ... WELL? HAVE YOU CALMED DOWN A LITTLE?
I AM SORRY ...
YEAH
!
DID YOU SEE SOME-THING?
WHAT HAPP-ENED, NAT-SUME?


I SEE ...
OH, I'M SORRY
... MY FAMILY WAS VERY STRICT WHEN I WAS LITTLE. SO IT'S THE FIRST TIME FOR ME TO PLAY TAG IN SOMEONE ELSE'S HOUSE.
HEH-HEH.
DESPITE THE CIRCUMST-ANCES, I KINDA HAD FUN
...
ME TOO.
BEFORE I MOVED HERE, I'D NEVER CHASED SOMEONE AROUND THE HOUSE!
AND ...
Squeeze
...
THERE WERE SOME AYAKASHI OUTSIDE THE WINDOW.
ACTU-ALLY,
...

NATSUME-KUN, ARE YOU HUNGRY?
Groooowl...
Ah!
!
Grumbling...
TA-TANUMA, TAKI, ARE YOU ..
.. ARE YOU MY ..

Shake
Shake
ANIMEPARADISE

HERE YOU ARE.
I BROUGHT THEM THINKING WE COULD ALL EAT IT WHEN WE WENT TO VISIT AND HAVE FUN AT YOUR PLACE, NATSUME.
HAHA! DON'T BE SHY.
THE STEW NEEDS TO SIMMER A LITTLE BIT MORE, AND THERE'S STILL QUITE SOME TIME BEFORE DINNER.
OH, I ALMOST FORGOT! LOOK, I BROUGHT THESE CUPCAKES

YOU MEAN THE HOUSE OF THE .. FUJIWARAS THAT THE CAT MENTIONED?
THAT'S RIGHT.
YEAH.
AT MY .. PLACE ?
COME TO HAVE FUN ...?
..
NIMAPARADISE
... THEY'RE VERY KIND.
THEY DON'T HATE ME?
... ARE THEY.. KIND?
HUH?
. THE FUJIWARAS .. WHAT ARE THEY LIKE?
...

YOU CARE ABOUT THEM VERY MUCH, NATSUME.
AND THEY DON'T HATE YOU AT ALL.
THEY CARE ABOUT YOU,
AND TAKE CARE OF YOU AND NYANKO-SENSEI.
Clench...
FUN-PARADISE

… THE TRUTH IS,

I THINK I'M JUST ON THE VERGE OF REMEMBER ING.

BUT I'M AFRAID ..

.. TO REMEMBER.

IT FEELS LIKE A LOT OF PAINFUL THINGS WILL COME BACK .

TANUMA, TAKI,

ARE YOU MY FRIENDS?

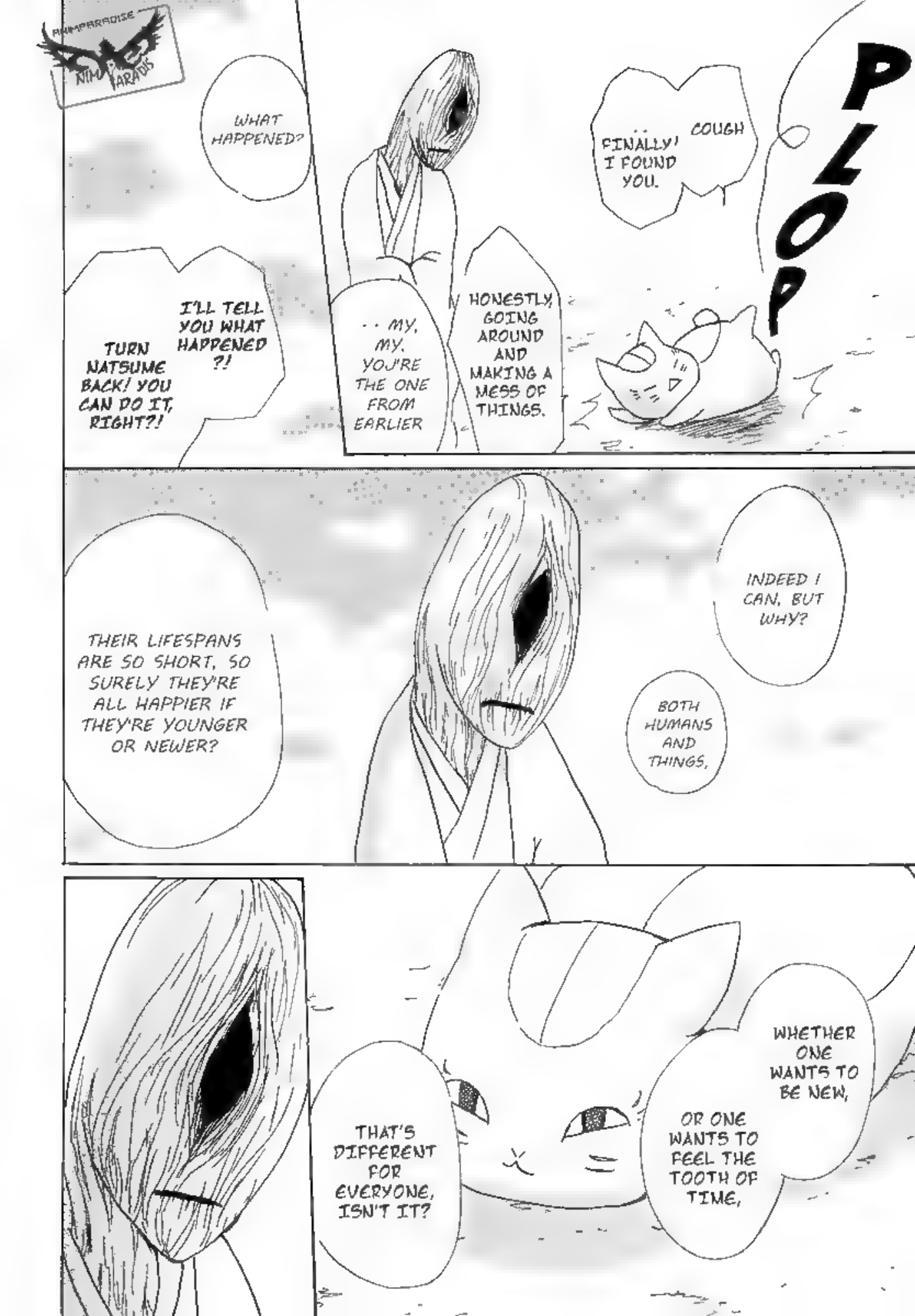
ANIMPARADISE NIHU PARADIS

WE ARE
ANIMPARADISE
NIMPARADISE
..
THAT CAT AYAKASHI,
AND YOU TANUMA AND TAKI, TOO,
BECAUSE IF I BELIEVE YOU,
I KNOW, I'LL BE VERY DISAPPOINTED FOR SURE.
YOU'RE PROBABLY ALL AYAKASHI WHO'RE TEASING ME.
... BUT IT'D BE NICE IF IT WERE TRUE

IF IT'S TRUE,
THEN I WANT TO GET BACK TO NORMAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
IF I GET TURNED BACK,
DO YOU THINK I COULD REMEMBER HOW WE HAD FUN TOGETHER ...?
IF NOT, THEN WE'LL REMEMBER FOR YOU
ANIMEPARADISE

SO PLEASE,
HURRY UP AND TURN BACK, NATSUME.
HEY, YOU! TSUKI-HIGUI!
Rustle
fwoosh...

NIMPARADISE


WHAT HAPPENED?
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED ?!
TURN NATSUME BACK! YOU CAN DO IT, RIGHT?!
.. MY, MY, YOU'RE THE ONE FROM EARLIER
HONESTLY, GOING AROUND AND MAKING A MESS OF THINGS.
.. FINALLY! I FOUND YOU.
COUGH
PLOP
THEIR LIFESPANS ARE SO SHORT, SO SURELY THEY'RE ALL HAPPIER IF THEY'RE YOUNGER OR NEWER?
INDEED I CAN, BUT WHY?
BOTH HUMANS AND THINGS,
THAT'S DIFFERENT FOR EVERYONE, ISN'T IT?
OR ONE WANTS TO FEEL THE TOOTH OF TIME,
WHETHER ONE WANTS TO BE NEW,

...AND YOU CLAIM TO KNOW,
WHICH ONE NATSUME -SAMA WOULD WISH FOR?
ANIMPARADISE
Rustle...
Rattle
Clack

..
THEY'RE FINISHING THE STEW.
I GOT KIND OF SLEEPY SO THEY LET ME HAVE A NAP.
PHEW, I'M EXHAUSTED.
... WHAT ARE TANUMA AND TAKI DOING?
Thud
I ASKED TSUKIHIGUI TO UNDO THE SPELL.
IT SHOULD BE UNDONE BY DUSK.
I'M TIRED, SO I'M GOING TO SLEEP NOW.
MAKE SURE TO RETURN THIS FAVOR IN DOUBLE SOME DAY.
THANK YOU.
... OKAY

...
NYANKO
-SENSEI,
ARE WE
FRIENDS?
NOPE.
WE'RE
JUST
BOUND
BY FATE.

NAT-
SUME!
THE
STEW
IS ..

THE END

日刊ララ
cover illustration
緑川ゆき
2015 September
9

緑川ゆき 夏目友人帳

【なつめゆうじんちょう】

ありがとう、創刊39周年。

大人気ハイパー女将業DAYS 新連載
ウラカタ!! 美女とビスコ

リアルとネット、繋がる関係!? 新連載
ニンターネット 明海ひつじ

最後の幕開け
千真対とプリーツ 植野まつり 新連載

ふろく
ニャンコ先生 ぷにキュートチャーム

あやかし契約奇譚 45P

君のコトなど絶対に
図書館戦争 LOVE&WAR 別冊編
狼陛下の花嫁
ユキは地獄に堕ちるのか
ラストゲーム
うそカノ
水玉ハニーボーイ
少女漫画のはじめかた
猫絵教室

あきづき空太

夏目友人帳

なつめゆうじんちょう

ROCKING ON THE MYSTERIOUS WAVES OF THE POND IS ...?

THE CHAPTER FLOWS ON.

NATSUME'S BOOK OF FRIENDS

MIDORIKAWA YUKI

DAMN, WHY THE MOUNTAINS FOR THIS YEAR'S STUDY TRIP ...!? I WANTED TO GO TO THE OCEAN!

ANIMPARADISE

THAT'S NOT WHAT THIS IS ABOUT!

IT SEEMS YOU CAN LIGHT FIRE WORKS IN THE GARDEN, IF YOU ASK PERMIS SION FIRST.

I WANT TO LIGHT FIRE-WORKS ON THE BEACH! DON'T YOU AGREE, NATSUME!?

NO! I'M TIRED OF MOUNTAIN RIVERS!!

WE COULD GO FISHING IN THE RIVER IN OUR SPARE TIME, IF YOU'D LIKE?

Check out our new project
«There Goes Nyanko-Sensei»
at our FaceBook group and have
fun reading this warm and fluffy
gag comedy while the characters
from "Natsume Yuujinchou",
appear as cute chibis

OUR GROUP WAS ENTRUSTED WITH CLEAN-ING THE AREA AROUND THIS OLD, BUT PRETTY SHRINE

IS A FUN AND RELAXING TRIP, WHERE WE SPEND CLEAN-UP TIME TIDY ING THE MOUN TAIN AREA.

THE ANNUAL 3 DAY STUDY TRIP FOR OUR SCHOOL

NO.

YEAH, IT LOOKS WELL-KEPT AND YOU DON'T FEEL ANYTHING STRANGE, DO YOU?

NAT-SUME, WILL YOU BE ALL-RIGHT ...?

EH?

I WONDER-WHAT'S ENSHRINED HERE IN THIS MOU -NTAIN.

NATSUME, TANUMA, YOU TOO!

HM? OH, THAT? JUST TAKE A LOOK INSIDE.

EXCJSE ME

ANIMPARADISE

CAN YOU SEE THE MASKS? APPARENTLY THIS PLACE IS CALLED THE "MOUND OF THE FOUR FACES".

MASKS

THAT'S RIGHT.

EH?

EVEN THOUGH THERE'RE ONLY THREE MASKS?

MOUND OF THE FOUR FACES?

I SEE, THAT EXPLAINS WHY THERE RE FOUR MASKS ...

SO I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SEE THE FOURTH MASK ?

PRETTY INTEREST-ING, DON'T YOU THINK?

EVEN THOUGH THERE'RE ONLY THREE MASKS, THEY CALL IT THE MOUND OF THE FOUR FACES.

IN THAT CASE,

UNFORTUNATELY SHE RETIRED TO A PLACE FURTHER UP ON THE MOUNTAIN, BUT HER FOUR ATTENDANTS STAYED BEHIND TO PROTECT HER AND THE MOUNTAIN FROM BELOW.

REALLY?

I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS, BUT MY BROTHERS TOLD ME THAT LONG AGO THE KAMI OF THIS MOUNTAIN USED TO LIVE AROUND HERE.

ONE OF THEM IS AN AYAKASHI?

THEY DON'T LOOK DANGEROUS, BUT THEY DO GIVE ME THE CREEPS. DON'T YOU THINK SO TOO, NATSUME?

!

YES.

YOU THINK?

SOUNDS ROMANTIC.

IT'LL BE FINE AS LONG AS WE LEAVE IT ALONE

CLEANUP TIME IS OVER! EVERYONE GATHER!

Yes!

BUT IF IT'S AN AYAKASHI THAT PROTECTS THE KAMI OF THIS PLACE,

THEY DEFINITELY ARE A LITTLE CREEPY,

I SUPPOSE.

THOSE ARE SOME THICK CLOUDS IT PROBABLY WON'T STOP FOR A WHILE

HEY, STEAK FOR YOUR-SELF!

REALLY

SO WHY DO WE EVEN COME HERE ?

BECAUSE THE DINING ROOMS IN THIS OLD BUILDING AND THE NEWER ONE, WHERE THE GIRLS ARE STAYING, ARE BOTH TOO SMALL TO HOLD ALL OF YOU

ARE YOU KIDDING ME!? NOMIYA-SENSEI, WHY CAN'T WE HAVE DINNER WITH THE GIRLS!?

CHEER UP, NISHIMURA! I'LL GIVE YOU MY PUDDING-

LOOK, IT STARTED RAINING-

THE TEACHERS DECIDED TO STAY MOST OF THE NIGHT IN THE NEW BUILDING, TO SPEND THE NIGHT

THIS IS BAD!

THE RIVER IS GOING TO OVER-FLOW!

SINCE THE OLD BUILDING WAS CLOSE TO THE RIVER IT HAS A RAISED FLOOR

DESPITE THAT IT APPEARS THE FLOOD WATER STILL CRAZED THE UNDERSIDE OF THE FLOOR

HEY, THE SKY CLEARED UP!

LOOKS LIKE IT NEVER RAINED!

I'll be in the night-keeper's room!

OK

ALL RIGHT, IT'S TIME FOR STUDYING!

I HEARD THE WATER HAS GONE DOWN, BUT YOU STILL SHOULD-N'T GET TOO CLOSE TO THE RIVER!

Spit

WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE!? HOW DID YOU EVEN GET HERE?

HOW DO YOU THINK? I HID IN YOUR BAG.

Rustle

YO, NAT-SUME.

Rustle

HEY, YOU!

NYANKO-SENSEI!!

NYANKO-SENSEI!!

All right. time for a break.

I CAME HERE TO STUDY! SO, MAKE SURE NO ONE ELSE SEES YOU SENSEI!!

HM?

I'M LOOKING FOR THE SAKE WATERFALL THAT'S SAID TO BE AROUND HERE, BUT DUE TO THE RAIN I HAVEN'T FOUND IT YET. BE GOOD AND HELP ME FIND IT!

I SLIPPED OUT ON THE WAY.

SO THAT'S WHY MY BAG WAS SO HEAVY!! BUT I OPENED IT WHEN I ARRIVED, YOU--

Woosh

AFTER ALL THIS TIME ... YOU STILL CARE ABOUT SUCH TRIVIAL THINGS ...

.....

BECAUSE IT WOULD BE HUMILIATING TO ADMIT I ACCIDENTLY BROUGHT MY PET CAT ON A STUDY TRIP!

Creak...

Creak

Creak

IT'S A LITTLE BOAT, BUT AFTER THE RAIN FROM LAST NIGHT

...

THE RIVER?

...

WHAT'S WRONG, SENSEI ...?

CREAK
CREAK

SHE PROBABLY WASN'T HUMAN.

THE WOMAN QUIETLY PASSED US IN HER BOAT. NOT EVEN ONCE LIFTING HER HEAD ABOVE THE WATER...

Creak...

...Creak...

AH, THERE HE IS! HEY, NAT-SUME!

IDIOT, DON'T LOOK!

Je~

!

Quick

.....

EH? AH! THIS ...

IT'S DANGER-OUS TO GET THAT CLOSE TO ... OH? NATSUME, THAT CAT—

Plop~

!

NOW THAT I LOOK IT AGAIN ...

... OH? I THOUGHT HE LOOKED LIKE YOUR PET CAT, BUT ...

Tch!

THIS IS SUCH A PAIN!

Cough

POOF

HOH

YOU REALLY LIKE THESE CATS, DON'T YOU NAT-SUME?

YE— YES

A CAT!? SO MORE OF THESE BIG-HEADED CATS EXISTS.

A WILD BOAR?

AH, NO. IT'S JUST A HOME-LESS CAT AND—

YOU CAN LAUGH, TANUMA

LEAVING H M BEHIND WAS TOO MORTIFY-ING, HUH?

I SEE, SO THAT WILD BOAR, TIGER CAT IS ACTUALLY NYANKO-SENSEI ?

HEY, NAT-SUME!

COULD YOU HAND ME THOSE PAPERS?

HOWEVER

AYAKASHI IN THE LITTLE BOAT ...

I'M SORRY
HEH, SORRY—
WHAAH!
JOE
WHAT—
WHAT SHIRT?
WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU?
ALL MIGHT!!
YES.
THAT MUSH. IT IS...

IT'S ONE OF THE MASKS I SAW IN THE MOUND OF THE FOUR FACES.

ERR, NOMIYA -SENSEI,

ARE YOU FEELING ALL RIGHT? NO HEADACHES OR HEAVY LIMBS ...?

HM? NO?

I SEE ...

NO ONE ELSE CAN SEE IT ...

Sensei, is this value correct?

Oh? You need to use another formula.

WHO CAN SEE THAT MASK?

AM I THE ONLY ONE

HMM

BUT IT WOULDN'T POSSES A HUMAN WITH-OUT REASON, RIGHT? IT FEELS A LITTLE WEIRD!

IF TANUMA CAN'T SENSE ANYTHING, IT'S ONLY SMALL FRY. JUST LEAVE IT BE.

VIRTUALLY THE SAME,

HUH ...?

THE ACT OF POSSESSION ITSELF IS A BIT EERIE, BUT IT'S VIRTUALLY THE SAME AS A SMALL FRY THAT CAN'T POSSESS ANYONE.

I WONDER WHERE NOMIYA-SENSEI IS?

Stealthily

Stealthily

WELL, IF IT REALLY BOTH-ERS YOU, WHY DON'T YOU SHOW ME THE MASK?

....

YOU HAVE MORE FREE TIME THAN I THOUGHT !!

EH, THANKS ...

SENSEI, DID YOU HEAR THAT TOO?

WOOSH

AT THIS TIME, PROBABLY IN THE NIGHT KEEPER'S ROOM…?

WOOOOSH

WOW, THE WATER CAME ALL THE WAY UP HERE…

IS IT BECAUSE OF YESTERDAY'S FLOODING? BUT WHY IS IT STILL HERE?

Splash

!

WATER !?

IT SOUNDS LIKE A RIVER.

WHAT IS THIS?

WOOSH...

FROM THE END OF THE HALL

WOOSH

WOOSH

...
I HAVE TO INFORM THE TEACHERS
...

NIMA PARADISE

IS THAT WHAT IS MAKING THE NOISE...?

SOMEHOW ALL THIS WATER... MAYBE IT'S A LEAK OR FROM THE FLOODING ...

NAT-SUME,
WHAT'S WRONG?

TA— TANUMA !

Startle

AH, WELL,

THERE'S WATER ...

Pull

HM,... DO YOU SEE SOMETHING, NATSUME?

Woosh...

HM?

Slap

Slap

EH, WHA— TANUMA!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

WATER?

WELL, NOT JUST WATER,

IT'S MORE LIKE A RIVER...

THE RIVER ...

Woosh...

IS SLOWLY GETTING CLOSER.

THIS

SHOULD I BE SCARED?

WILL WE BE FINE?

THE UN-KNOWN IS SCARY.

THIS FAMILIAR SENSATION.

HE ALSO COULDN'T FIND ANYTHING STRANGE INSIDE THE ROOMS, AND THE HALL ENDED WITH A WALL.

THERE WERE JUST BEDROOMS AND A STORE ROOM ALONG THE HALL

TANUMA LOOKED AT THE END OF THE HALLWAY, BUT HE DIDN'T FIND ANY-THING SUSPICIOUS.

THANKS, EVERYTHING IS NORMAL ?

YES, I DIDN'T SENSE ANY-THING.

I SEE... SO I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SEE THIS ...

PROBABLY.

THROUGH THE WINDOW YOU COULD SEE THE RIVER AND THE PLACES IT FLOODED.

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NATSUME, IT'S BETTER IF YOU STAYED CLEAR OF THE THIS RIVER.
WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE CAN'T HURT YOU.
BUT WHAT YOU CAN SEE COULD GET YOU CAUGHT UP IN THE CURRENT.
THAT'S WHAT A "CURRENT" DOES.
YEAH, I UNDERSTAND.

Ah!

HEY, I'M ABOUT TO CALL ROLL.

WAIT... !

A MASK ?!

!?

THE MASK MOVED ONTO THAT STU-DENT!?

HUH!? WHAT'S WRONG NAT-SUME?

WAH! SENSEI, THE MASK!?

...

WHAT'S IT DOING!?

ANIMPARADISE

MAYBE IT HAS SOME-THING TO DO WITH THE WOMAN IN THE LITTLE BOAT...?

AND THAT WATER.

....

... ME!

YOU DON'T LOOK WELL.

YOU ALL RIGHT?

Ah!

NAT-SUME!

I ONLY MAKE PEOPLE WORRY ABOUT ME

AT THIS RATE.

THANKS, I'M FINE.

I'M SURE I SAW IT IN THE MOUND OF THE FOUR FACES SO WHY

WHY IS THAT MASK MOVING AROUND?

All right, let's get some food!

I HAVE TO MAKE SURE NO ONE ELSE GETS CAUGHT UP IN SOME THING STRANGE.

I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SEE IT.

WHAT SHOULD WE GET FOR DINNER, NATSUME

I THINK

HEY!

GET AWAY FROM HIM!

NATSUME

DON'T YOU DARE HURT MY FRIEND!

NIMPARADISE

Slow

WHAT'S WRONG ...?

NA...

NAT-SUME ?

I'M SORRY TO TROU-BLE YOU

"I'M SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU"

.....

NA ... NATSUME ...?

IT DISAP-PEARED. DID IT MOVE ONTO SOMEONE ELSE?

Sudden...

Run

Pant

Pant

HEY, NATSUME !

Woosh

Woosh

ANIMPARADISE

Woosh

Step

JUST NOW!

THE RIVER. IT'S BIGGER THAN BEFORE

Creak

Rus

Part

Thud

IT SOUNDS LIKE THERE WAS A BOAT IN THE BACK.

Part

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, NATSUME?

THE MOUND OF THE FOUR FACES

... I DON'T THINK THAT MASK IS UP TO SOME-THING EVIL, BUT ...

I HOPE THAT MOUND CAN GIVE ME SOME ANSWERS.

SOME-ONE'S HERE

HEY, YOU'RE ONE OF THE STUDENTS STAYING AT THE INN DOWN HERE?

LAST NIGHT MUST HAVE BEEN SCARY? IT SEEMS THE WATER FLOODED ALL THE WAY UP THERE.

YES, ... ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THIS PLACE?

HAHA, I'M THE PRIEST OF A NEARBY SHRINE. THIS SHRINE WAS ALSO PUT UNDER MY CARE.

BECAUSE OF ALL THE RAIN, I GOT A LITTLE WORRIED, BUT ... THE SHRINE LOOKS FINE.

... NO-THING ...

UNUSUAL ...?

YES? ... AH, YOU MEAN THERE ARE ONLY 3 MASKS? YES, THE NAME'S A LITTLE WEIRD

BUT I'VE TAKEN A LIKING TO IT.

... ERR, ... DO YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THOSE MASKS? I'M... JUST INTEREST-ED.

I MEAN WHY ARE THERE ONLY THREE MASKS ...?

FOR EXAMPLE... WHAT ABOUT THE LITTLE BOAT, AND THAT WOMAN IN IT...?

HM?

I SEE .....

LONG AGO, A KAMI LIVED HERE, SHE WAS PRTECTED BY HER FOUR ATTENDANTS, BUT

ONE DAY SHE FELL IN LOVE WITH A HUMAN.

BUT HUMAN LIVES ARE FLEETING AND HE LEFT THIS WORLD.

BUT AS TIME PASSED, THE FOUR STARTED TO LOSE THEIR POWERS.

HEART BROKEN, CLUTCHING THE HAIR ORNAMENT HE GAVE HER, SHE CONFINED HERSELF ON THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN.

IT SEEMS HER FOUR ATTENDANTS STAYED BEHIND TO PROTECT HER AND THE MOUNTAIN.

THEY FELT SORRY FOR THEIR MASTER THAT THEY TOO WOULD LEAVE HER,

SO IT'S SAID THE ATTENDANTS CARVED THEIR FACES INTO MASKS AND HUNG THEM IN THE SHRINE BEFORE THEY DISAPPEARED.

SO, THOSE THREE MASKS ARE ...

THREE OF THEM DISAPPEARED FROM THIS WORLD,

BUT ONLY THREE.

SEEING THAT THERE ARE ONLY THREE MASKS IN THE MOUND OF THE FOUR FACES MEANS THERE IS STILL SOME HOPE LEFT IN THIS WORLD.

THERE'S STILL ONE LEFT

TO PROTECT THIS MOUNTAIN AND ITS KAMI.

THREE DISAPP-EARED,

THE FOUR ATTENDANTS THAT PROTECT THIS MOUN-TAIN'S KAMI,

ONE IS LEFT.

SOME HOW ...

I THINK I UNDER STAND IT NOW.

SHE IS LOOKING FOR SOME THING.

THE LITTLE BOAT THAT CAME DOWN THE RIVER

THE WOMAN WHO DIDN'T LIFT HER FACE FROM THE WATER.

THAT WAS ...

R u s t l e

BUT WELL, THANKS FOR WORRYING ABOUT ME.

...EH.

YOU'RE HOPELESS, DON'T FREAK OUT OVER A BUG!

I'M SORRY FOR THE WEIRD STUFF I SAI—

NISHI-MURA,

NAT-SUME! WHERE DID YOU GO?

ANIMPARADISE

TOMORROW IS THE LAST DAY!

LET'S GET DINNER!

IT SEEMS TANUMA CONVINCED THEM I FREAKED OUT OVER A HUGE BUG THAT WAS STUCK ON NISHIMURA

THAT NIGHT I HAD A DREAM.

Rustle

AWAY

ÜAY

MOUN-TAIN'S KAMI PRE-CIOUS

SOME-WHERE.

I'M VERY SORRY.

WASH-ED AWAY.

THE MOUN-TAIN'S KAMI.

WASH-ED AWAY.

WASH-ED AWAY.

I'M SO SORRY

SOME-WHERE

...Creak

...

YES.

Creak

Creak

I CAN HEAR THE LITTLE BOAT.

YES... IN THE DISTANCE.

WHAT FOR?

I'M NOT REALLY SURE.

WHAT!?

HELP ME LOOK!

IT'S STILL DARK, WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?

HEY, NAT-SUME!

I THINK THAT MASK MOVED AROUND THE TEACHERS AND STUDENTS HOPING TO FIND IT.

THIS MOUNTAIN'S KAMI'S .....

IT SHOULD BE SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE.

I THINK THAT HEAVY RAIN WASHED SOMETHING AWAY. IT WAS IMPORTANT TO THIS MOUNTAIN'S KAMI.

Thud

Thud

SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO THE BROKEN-HEARTED KAMI.

HM.

Transform

LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH, I WANT TO SLEEP!!

SENSEI·

YOU TAKE CARE OF THE AREA BELOW.

I'LL SEARCH THE AREA OVER THERE.

Glitter

Rustle

Rustle

Grab Grab

Grab

Peek

FOUND IT.

Crunch

Crunch

NEVER LOOKING UP FROM THE WATER TO FIND IT

THE HAIR PIN

...Creak

THAT MASK THIS IS WHAT SHE WAS LOOKING FOR

Creak

Creak

FOR THE SAKE OF THIS MOUNTAIN S KAMI ..

HAVING LOST HER BELOVED HAIR PIN

YOUR ATTEN-DANT WAS LOOKING FOR THIS.

IS THIS WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?

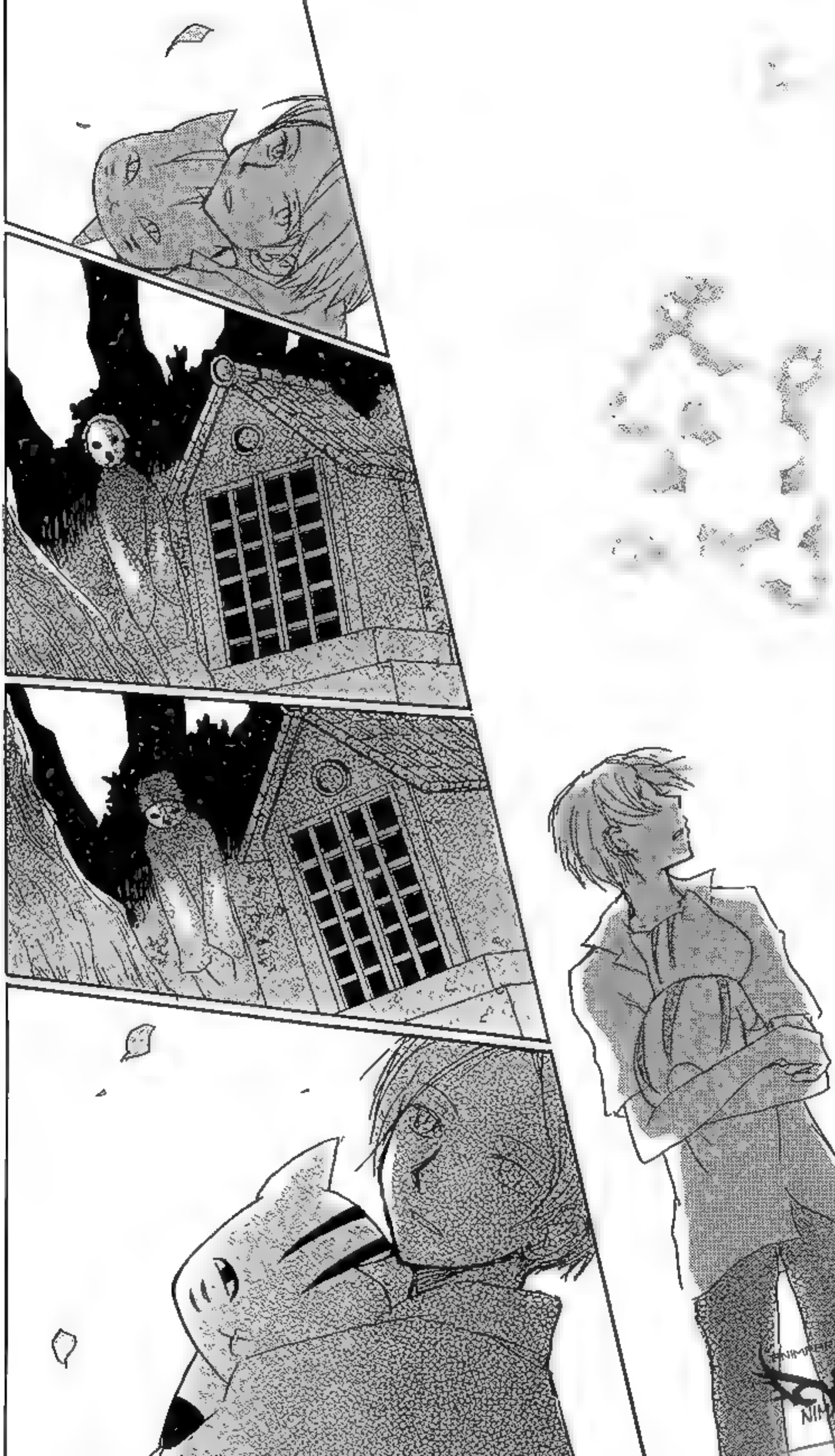
SLOW...

PARADISE

STILL

LOOKING AFTER ME?

ANIMPARADISE



IT WAS PROBABLY AN ILLUSION ALLOWING THE KAMI TO BROADEN HER SEARCH AREA.

WHEN I RETURNED TO THE INN, THE RIVER DISAP PEARED

THAT'S HOW I CLEARED THE CASE OF THE MYSTERI OUS LITTLE BOAT.

...
I WONDER IF SHE RETURNED TO THE MOUNTAIN TOP.

PROBA-
BLY.

SHE RETRIEVED HER HAIR PIN, SO I DON'T THINK SHE'LL COME DOWN FOR A WHILE.

BUT,

SHE REALIZED HER LOYAL ATTENDANTS ARE STILL LOOKING AFTER HER.

.....

...
YEAH.

ANYMPARADISE

NIMPARADISE

ALTHOUGH
POSSESSED
HUMAN BODIES,
IT DIDN'T
CONTROL
THEM TO
MOVE
AROUND.

THREE
ATTENDANTS
LOST THEIR
POWERS AS
TIME
PASSED.

AND
THE ONE
REMAINING
WILL SOON
LOSE THE
REST OF
ITS
POWERS

AND THE
WORDS
SPOKEN TO
ME IN MY
DREAM
SOUNDED
WEAK

IT'S STILL HERE.

EVEN SO,

HERE FOR HER

...

IT IS STILL

FINAL-LY!

WE'RE FINALLY GOING HOME!

I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!

NISHIMURA, GET OVER HERE! LET'S CLEAN UP!

Tight!

YOU'LL HAVE TO SAY GOODBYE TO THE WILD BOAR CAT!

HOW MANY MASKS DO YOU SEE?

...YEAH

NAT-SUME?

... HEY, TANUMA, ...

HM?

HM- .....

I SEE.

... ONLY THREE.

NIMPARADISE

TAKE CARE.

RIGHT, EVERYONE GATHER!

WE'RE GOING HOME!

ALL RIGHT!

Yay!

Yay!

Hey! Be quiet!

THE MYSTERIOUS MOUND OF THE FOUR FACES.

I'M SURE THERE WILL FOREVER BE THREE MASKS.

THE END.

AnimParadise
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毎月24日発売
日刊
1
図書館戦争
LOVE & WAR
10月4日(日) & 5日(月)
TBS系にて映画第一
&ドラマ二夜連続放送
10月10日(土)
映画最新作公開

NATSUME YUUJINCHOU

MIDORIKAWA YUKI

THE AUTUMN SKY IS VISIBLE UNDER

夏目友人帳

なつめゆうじんちょう

MEGA HIT:
A STRANGE STORY ABOUT AYAKASHI CONTRACTS
45P

CHAPTER 80 : TEN LOONY NIGHTS

JUST A LITTLE FURTHER, NATSUME-SAMA.

I HEARD THE BREAD STORE, ON THE CORNER AHEAD, IS SELLING A NEW KIND OF BUN.

HEY, ARE WE THERE YET?

THAT DAY,

.....

WE HAVE TO CHECK IT OUT, NATSUME !!

WILL THE GOLDEN BEAN JAM BE MADE OF CHESTNUTS OR SWEET POTATOES? LAST NIGHT I WAS SO EXCITED TO FIND OUT THAT I COULDN'T SLEEP!!

.....

I SEE.

Check out our new project
«There Goes Nyanko-Sensei»
at our FaceBook group and have
fun reading this warm and fluffy
gag comedy while the characters
from "Natsume Yuujinchou",
appear as cute chibis

DRAGGED ALONG BY SOME YOUKAI TO A SOME WHAT FARAWAY

THUD

THUD

RUSTLE

THUD

THUD

SC-SCARE-CROWS? ...WHY ARE THEY...?

FOR A MOMENT, I MISTOOK THEM FOR HUMANS, BUT THOSE ARE.

THUD

THUD

THUD

!?

IT AP-PEARS SO.

LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE GOING TO THE MOUTAIN.

OH, A GROUP OF SCARE-CROWS.

BUT SCARE CROWS RELIEVED FROM THEIR DUTIES...?

SO THEY'RE RELIEVED OF THEIR DUTIES.

IT'S CUR-RENTLY THE HAR-VEST,

That's how they did it Oh

Ah, it's an apple!

AREN'T SUP-POSED TO MOVE TO AT ALL.

Munch ...

.....

THE ROAD FROM EARLIER TODAY...

THUD

Ah!

THAT NIGHT I HAD A DREAM...

RUN!

WHY ARE THEY ENTERING THE MANSION?

SCARE-CROWS !

THUD

THUD

THUD

THUD

.....

A SICKLE !?

Hey!

Crash

SERI-OUSLY,

.....

I'LL BUY YOU TWO.

ALRIGHT, LET'S DO THIS.

Trot Trot

WHY DID WE COME HERE AGAIN?

Trot Trot

I HAVE THIS DISQUIET-ING FEEL-ING,

AND I HOPE FINDING THE MAN-SION I DREAMED OF WILL DIMINISH IT...

BEFORE WE GO HOME, SENSEI LET'S BUY AN-OTHER BUN-

AH!

PEOPLE ?
NO

THUD

THUD

la Dronne

la Dronne

Creak...

SENSEI, THAT'S IT!

THE GATE ...

THUD

THUD

THUD

THUD

THUD

THUD

SCARE-CROWS!

THUD
THUD
THUD
...LOON...
...NIGHTS
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
TEN...
Shiver
Shiver
LO-ON
NIG-HTS...
Shiver
THEY'RE SAYING SOMETHING...
LO
ON
TE
N
NI
GH
TS
THUD
THUD
THUD

NOT YET, FIRST LET'S CHECK IF THE RESI-DENTS ARE...

AMAZAWA

LOOKS PROMIS-ING, SHOULD WE FOLLOW THEM?

THEY CAME FROM INSIDE THAT MANSION.

THEY'RE THE SAME SCARE-CROWS AS YESTERDAY, WHAT A CREEPY LOT.

NIHARAIDO

THUD

THUD

THUD...

...SO THAT MEANS...

Ah!

YIPES! HIIRAGI!?

HEY, NATSUME

NATORI -SAN!

WE MEET AGAIN IN AN UNEXPECTED PLACE. WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

AH, WELL, THE SCARE-CROWS ...

SCARE-CROWS?

... WITH SICK-LES ...

SICK-LES?

ARE YOU BUTTING INTO THE AFFAIRS OF OTHERS, AGAIN?

NOT YET.

I'M NOT BUTTING INTO ANY-THING YET!

... OH DEAR ...

BUT SINCE YOU'RE HERE... IT MEANS YOU HAVE BUSI-NESS WITH THIS MAN-SION.

DO YOU KNOW IF SOME-THING IS...?

...I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO SAY ANYTHING TO OUTSID-ERS.

HE CAN FEEL A STRANGE PRESENCE INSIDE THE HOUSE.

IT APPEARS THAT THE OWNER OF THIS MANSION HASN'T BEEN ABLE TO SLEEP FOR DAYS.

....

HOW ABOUT AN INFORMATION EXCHANGE?

BUT IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN YOU HAVE SOME INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MANSION.

WELL, HE'S ALSO AN OLD ASSOCIATE. I HEARD ABOUT THE SITUATION VIA A CERTAIN EXORCIST.

AS YOU CAN SEE, THIS PLACE BELONGED TO A ONCE POWERFUL LORD.

A STRANGE PRESENCE INSIDE THE HOUSE, - YOU SAY - ?

SO, WHAT ABOUT YOU?

WHAT DID YOU SEE?

ANIMPARADISE
NIMPARADIS

THAT'S RIGHT.

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, THEY WERE MUTTERING SOMETHING...

DID YOU NOTICE ANYTHING ELSE?

I'VE NEVER HEARD OF SCARECROW LIKE AYAKASHI. MAYBE A MOUNTAIN GOD OR A TANUKI FOOLING AROUND...?

WELL ...

LOON

NIGHTS

TEN

NIGHTS

THE SCARECROWS? ...WHAT DID THEY SAY?

.....

.....

HM. YOU MEAN THE HARVEST FESTIVAL ...?

...WASN'T IT TENTH LUNAR NIGHT...? MAYBE AS IN THE TENTH NIGHT OF THE LUNAR MONTH?

NIGHTS

LOON

TEN

TEN LOON NIGHTS ?

YES, THAT'S WHAT I HEARD.

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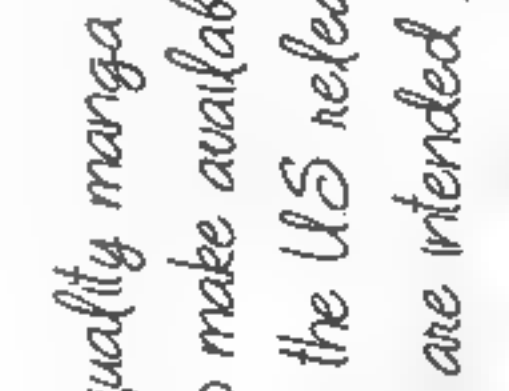

... NO, HOLD ON!
...IT'S PROBABLY SOMETHING ELSE... I REMEMBER HEARING ABOUT IT BEFORE.
SOME-THING ELSE... ?
VERY WELL, AN ACQUAIN-TANCE OF MINE LIVES NEARBY.
HE'S A LITTLE ECCENTRIC, BUT VERY KNOWLEABLE LET'S SEE WHAT HE THINKS.
WILL YOU COME ALONG, NAT-SUME?
IS THAT ALL RIGHT!?
LEAVING YOU OFF ALONE WILL ONLY WORRY ME.
WON'T YOU GIVE ME A HAND?

LIKE THAT NATORI AND I STARTED TO INVESTIGATE THE STRANGE GROUP OF SCARE CROWS

HE LIVES PRETTY DEEP IN THE FOREST, DON'T YOU THINK…?

YES!

IN THE PAST THE YORISHIMA FAMILY'S POWER RIVALED THAT OF THE MATOBA CLAN, HOWEVER NOW THEY'VE STOPPPED BUSINESS AND RETIRED DEEP INTO THE FOREST.

IT'S DUE TO THE BARRIERS. THEY'RE LIKE THE ONES FROM HAKOZAKI-SAN.

YES, AND SOMETHING ABOUT IT FEELS OFF.

SENSEI, HIIRAGI, DON'T YOU SENSE ANYTHING?

…I SEE,

ALTHOUGH THEY ARE STILL VERY POWERFUL.

HEY, EXORCIST!

HOW DARE YOU ENTER ANOTHER PERSON'S DOMAIN WITHOUT PERMISSION?

IT'S BEEN A WHILE, YORISHI-MA-SAN.

SO THAT'S YORISHIMA -SAN ?

I HAVE NO INTENTION TO TALK TO AN EXOR-CIST.

GO HOME, NATORI ...

SOME-THING ABOUT HIM BOTHERS ME.

...

WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY?

I'M NAT-SUME.

HM? WHO DID YOU BRING WITH YOU ...?

A FRIEND. HE CAN SEE AYA-KASHI.

Ah!

NATORI, WHAT IS THAT!!?

WHAT'RE YOU PLANNING TO DO TO ME!?

HEY, BOY!

THAT'S ENOUGH, SHOW US YOUR PLACE.

POUR US, GUESTS, SOME TEA!

WHAT!? A CAT!?

I'M SORRY, THAT... HE'S MY CAT.

!!?

I'M VERY SORRY FOR VISITING TODAY, YOU SEEM TO BE IN A BAD MOOD.

IT'S BE-CAUSE OF YOU.

DRINK YOUR TEA AND LEAVE.

...

YOU HAVE... A STRANGE AIR AROUND YOU...

...

SOMEHOW IT'S... IS IT BECAUSE YOU'RE PRETTY STRONG...?

THE ROUND ANIMAL, IS HE YOUR SERVANT?

NO, HE'S ACTUALLY A FREE-LOADER.

BODY-GUARD! I'M NYANKO-SENSEI !!

SO, WELL... HE'S QUITE POWERFUL.

...

TEN LOON NIGHTS ...

THE RULES ARE SIMPLE: FOR A PERIOD OF TEN DAYS THE AYA-KASHI WILL VISIT THE FAMILY ONCE A DAY.

IF IT MAN-AGES TO SCARE THE FAMILY OFF, THE AYAKASHI GETS TO KEEP THEIR HOUSE.

TO OBTAIN THE HOUSE THAT CAUGHT ITS EYE, THE AYAKASHI PROPOSES A GAME. IT STARTS WHEN THE RESIDING FAMILY AC-CEPTS.

...
I SEE, IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN

"TEN LOONY NIGHTS"

IS A GAME THAT AYAKASHI PLAY WITH HUMANS.

IT ENDS WITHIN TEN NIGHTS.

THE FAMILY WINS IF THEY DON'T GIVE IN TO FEAR AND REMAIN ON THEIR PROPERTY.

THEN THE AYAKASHI WON'T GET TO LIVE IN THEIR HOUSE.

THAT'S ALL.

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A GAME BETWEEN HUMANS AND AYA-KASHI.

...

Ah!

...SO, THAT PLACE'S FAMILY ACCEPTED THE CHALLENGE?

WELL, TO START THE GAME,

A SURPRISE ATTACK BY AYA-KASHI.

ALL THAT'S NEEDED IS FOR THE PERSON TO SAY YES WHEN THEIR NAME IS BEING CALLED BY THEM.

THEY ACCIDENTALLY COME IN CONTACT AND BEFORE THEY KNOW IT THEY'RE TIED.

I GUESS THAT MAKES SENSE.

THEY CAN'T TELL IF IT'S AN AYAKASHI

SOMEHOW... THEY DON'T FEEL THE SAME AS THE AYAKASHI I'VE ENCOUNTERED IN THE FOREST AND MOUNTAINS.

ARE THERE SCARECROW AYAKASHI?

AH, CAN I ASK YOU ANOTHER QUESTION?

...

...

...SCARECROWS ...?

THEY WERE PROBABLY CREATED USING FORBIDDEN ARTS.

FORBIDDEN ARTS

ALL THE MORE BECAUSE THEY'RE FILLED WITH THOUGHTS AND APPRECIATION TOWARDS THE FIELD AND CROPS.

ACCIDENTALLY CREATE SCARECROWS THAT TURN INTO AYAKASHI.

BUT SOMETIMES POWERFUL PEOPLE WHO ARE UNAWARE OF THEIR ABILITIES,

MOST HUMANS MAKE SCARECROWS WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT.

BECAUSE SHE HAD STRANGE POWERS

THAT'S ALSO WHAT REIKO-SAN DID

"WANT TO PLAY A GAME?"

FORBIDDEN ARTS THAT ARE USED UNKNOWINGLY

TO HER IT WAS A WHIMSICAL GAME TO KILL TIME

AND YET IT'S

MAYBE

"HEY"

SHE BOUND MANY BEINGS.

IT'S BASICALLY A RESTRICTED SOUL.

THEY CREATE A VESSEL TO HOUSE IT.

...

IN TRUTH, THE SCARECROWS THAT WERE CREATED,

HOWEVER, HUMANS WERE NEVER MEANT TO CREATE NEW SOULS THAT WAY.

...

NO PLACE TO GO

THAT GROUP OF SCARE-CROWS YOU SAW MUST'VE ALSO BEEN LIKE THAT.

AFTER FULFILLING THEIR DUTY TO PROTECT THE CROPS FROM BIRDS AND BEASTS.

HAVE NO PLACE TO GO, AND HIDE IN THE MOUNTAINS,

... AN AYAKASHI PROBABLY PERSUADED THEM TO DO THIS.

AND NATORI, DON'T INVOLVE CHILDREN IN YOUR SAVAGE EXORCIST PRACTICES!

YOU ARE STARTING TO ACT MORE AND MORE LIKE THAT MATOBA BRAT.

NATORI,

I KNOW THAT.

ANIMEPARADISE

AND SO DOES NATORI-SAN.

MATOBA-SAN HAS HIS OWN WAY OF HANDLING THINGS,

... NO, NATORI-SAN AND MATOBA-SAN ARE NOT THE SAME.

I THINK NATORI-SAN IS AN ANAMAZING PERSON.

IF I HAD TO HELP ANYONE ...

I UNDER-STAND NOT EVERYONE MAY AGREE WITH HIS METHODS, BUT

SOME-HOW,

Ah!

I DIDN'T MEAN TO OFFEND YOUR FRIEND.

... I'M SORRY,

LEAVE AND DON'T COME BACK!

YES, YES.

BUT... THE AIR AROUND THAT BOY.

WE'LL BE GOING THEN.

Excuse us!

NO, I'M SORRY.

I SHOULD THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU'VE TOLD US.

IS HE POS-SESSED BY SOMETHING? ...IS IT SOMETHING HE HOLDS...?

THE AIR AROUND HIM...

SOME-THING I DON'T.

SOME-THING I KNOW,

...YOR-ISHIMA-SAN,

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF REIKO-SAN? NATSUME REIKO?

NO.

...

THEN,

THE "BOOK OF FRIENDS"?

...WHAT?

...NEVER HEARD OF IT.

WHAT IS IT? WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT, NATORI?

NO, WELL, IT'S AN IMPORT-ANT ITEM.

I CAN'T TALK ABOUT IT...

BUT PLEASE REMEMBER THIS,

IF YOU EVER HEAR OF IT, LET ME KNOW.

I OWE YOU NOTHING.

THAT'S RIGHT.

...

WELL, THAT WAS UNPLEAS-ANT.

ARE YOU ALRIGHT, SENSEI ...?

I AM... ACTUALLY FEELING A LITTLE CALMER NOW.

WHAT'S THIS FEEING

Plink

WHAT? YOU'RE TOO NICE.

YES, YES

SORRY FOR THE WAIT, NATSUME.

AH, NATORI-SAN! IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

YES!

SHALL WE GO?

WE KNOW THE CAUSE.

OUR CLIENT, THE HEAD OF THE AMAZAWA FAMILY, IS A KIND HEARTED PERSON, WHO OWNS MANY FIELDS IN THE AREA.

RECENTLY, DURING MY AFTERNOON NAPS OR AT NIGHT, I HAVE NIGHTMARES ABOUT STRANGE PEOPLE CHASING ME AROUND THE HOUSE.

I'M GETTING MORE AND MORE AFRAID TO STAY HERE, THAT'S WHY I CALLED YOU.

...BUT... I SEE,

SCARECROW AYAKASHI... YOU DON'T HEAR THAT VERY OFTEN...

HOW MANY DAYS HAS IT BEEN SINCE THIS STARTED?

WELL ...

IT STARTED LAST FRIDAY, SO AS OF TODAY IT'S BEEN NINE DAYS.

TEN LOONY NIGHTS WILL LAST TEN DAYS, SO JUST ONE MORE TO GO...

IF YOU CAN BEAR WITH IT FOR ONE MORE DAY IT'LL BE OVER.

JUST IN CASE, WE'LL PUT UP A BARRIER AND PREPARE TO EXORCISE THEM.

Crunch...

AND MADE PREPARATIONS AS DARKNESS FELL.

WITH HIS PERMISSION, WE STAYED FOR THE NIGHT.

PLEASE DO WHAT YOU MUST TO PROTECT IT.

IT'S OLD, BUT THIS PLACE HOLDS THE MEMORIES AND HISTORY OF MY FAMILY.

ARE YOU BEING SARCASTIC? I HAVEN'T DONE A THING.

BUT YOU HAVE, YORISHIMA-SAN ISN'T ALWAYS THAT TALKATIVE.

IF TOMORROW IS THE LAST DAY, WE SHOULD BE FINE.

YES, YOU'VE BEEN GREAT HELP, NATSUME.

DESPITE HIS APPEARANCE, IT SEEMS HE'S ACTUALLY PRETTY OLD.

... YOU'RE NOT TOO FAR OFF.

IT'S LIKE TALKING TO AN AYAKASHI.

HE'S A STRANGE PERSON.

THERE'S FEAR AND LONGING...

THEY SAY HIS LEFT ARM WAS DEVOURED BUT GREW BACK THE NEXT DAY,

OR THAT AN AYAKASHI TURNED INTO HIS LEFT ARM AND POS-SESSED HIM...

HE'S RU-MORED TO BE HALF AYA-KASHI.

EH ...

WELL,

HE'S MIXED?

WHEN HE'S AROUND PEOPLE WHO DEAL WITH AYA-KASHI,

HIS INSE-CURITES AND WORRIES,

FEEL LIKE NOTHING IN COM-PARISON.

... HOW-EVER,

NO MATTER HOW SMALL THEY ARE,

...

HE STILL HAS FACED HARDSHIPS,

AND SOME-TIMES HE DEFINITELY IS SCARED.

...
YEAH.

THUD
THUD

...THUD

YES.

WHILE THE GAME LASTS, THE AYAKASHI ARE GUESTS. DON'T EXPECT TOO MUCH OF THE BARRIER, BUT IT SHOULD KEEP THEM IN THE GARDEN.

THEY PROBABLY KNOW WE'VE SET UP TRAPS.

!!

THEY'RE HERE !?

IT'S ONLY JUST PASt MIDNIGHT!

Hop

Hop

Hop

!!

NATSUME, CHECK ON AMAZAWA-SAN!

HE'S IN THE VERANDA ROOM LOOK-ING ONTO THE GARDEN! HIIRAGI'S GUARDING HIM.

YES!

RUN...

YES, I WILL.

I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON HIM, SO NATSUME GO AND HELP NATORI.

HE'S HAVING A NIGHT-MARE AND WON'T WAKE UP.

HIIRAGI, AMAZA-WA-SAN !

UUH ...

Ah!

SWOOSH

OKAY

THANKS, SENSEI. THERE'S TEN OF THEM.

HM, THAT'S ONE!

BU

CAW

CAW

A CROW ...?

NINE TO GO!

CAW !

CAW

CAW

Rustle

Rustle

Rustle

CAW

CAW

CAW

THIS WAY.

YOU WON'T WIN UNLESS YOU REACH US!

CAW

CAW...

You!

Jump

Jump

THAT'S TWO.

Thump

Thump

OUCH!

OUCH!

RUSTLE

NATORI-SAN!

I WON'T EXCUSE THEE WHO STEPS ON OTHERS.

CLIP

PERISH!

THOU ARE UNWANTED.

THOU ART PLAIN SOIL THAT CANNOT PROTECT.

THOU, ART NO MORE THAN SOIL.

BLOW

FISH-UP PARADISE

THAT'S NINE...

ONE MORE.

ROAR

IT'S A STRAW DOLL! OF COURSE NOT!

SENSEI, CAN YOU SMELL IT?

I CAN'T FIND HIM.

IS HE INSIDE?

URIHIME, SASAGO,

...
UU

WHERE
...

WHERE
?

ONE MORE.

....

....

UUH
....
....

....

HE
WOKE
UP!

...
....

AMAZAWA-
SAN ARE
YOU AL-
RIGHT...
?

...

WE'RE STILL LOOKING FOR THE LAST ONE!

Rattle...

Unsteady...

AH, NO, AMAZAWA-SAN! IT'S NOT OVER YET.

...

IT MUST BE HARD TO NOT HAVE A HOME.

...I'M SORRY, SCARECROW AYAKASHI.

...

I WON'T LET YOU HAVE IT.

I'M SORRY BUT THIS PLACE IS IMPORT-ANT TO ME.

SCH-

THE BROOM ...

CLATTER

Thud

Thud

Thud

Thud

AND THAT'S,

HOW THE SCARECROWS LEFT.

THE STRANGE GAME BETWEEN HUMANS AND AYAKASHI HAS ENDED.

HEY, YOU SURE WE SHOULD LET THEM GO?

THEY MIGHT CHALLENGE ANOTHER HUMAN.

THEY LOST.

ONCE THEY'VE LOST, THEY CAN'T TRY AGAIN UNTIL THEY'VE FULFILLED THEIR OBLIGATIONS.

BESIDES, THEY'RE ONLY PUPPETS.

DOING THIS TOOK AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF ENERGY, SOON THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO DO MUCH.

A PRODUCT OF FORBIDDEN ARTS.

THOSE SCARE CROWS...

THAT WAS AN ACCIDENTALLY USED

...

IN YOUR DREAMS YOU WERE CHASED BY A SCARY LOT, SO THAT BROOM BY THE GATE WAS…

…IS THAT WE LEARNED WHERE THE SCARE-CROWS CAME FROM.

NO, THE MOST IMPORT-ANT THING

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

SOME SORT OF MISCHIEF

…I WONDER WHY THEY TOOK A LIKING TO MY PLACE…

I'VE LIVED A LONG LIFE AND I'VE SEEN STRANGE THINGS.

MY WIFE PASSED AWAY,

AND MY CHILDREN HAVE STARTED LIFE ELSE-WHERE.

SOON THE CROPS THE SCARECROWS PROTECTED WILL HIT THE MARKET.

HEHE, THIS HOUSE HAS ALWAYS BEEN SUSTAINED BY FIELDS.

TO THANK THEM.

IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE SET THOSE SCARE CROW'S FREE, MR EXOR-CIST

...

—I WILL DO MY BEST

RUSTLE

WHO

IS SOME-THING LIKE THAT POS-SIBLE, NATORI-SAN?

I TOLD YOU BEFORE, IT'S HARDER TO ANNUL OR RELEASE THAN ERADICATE.

THAT'S RIGHT.

A WAY TO FREE YOU FROM THE BOOK OF FRIENDS.

... I'LL FIND IT SOME-DAY...

Sudden

HEY, NAT-SUME! ARE YOU FOR-GETTING SOME-THING!?

... EH? AH!

DON'T "AH" ME!

WE CAN'T GO HOME UNTIL I GET MY BUNS!

THE END

TRANSLATOR NOTE

In this chapter, Natori and Natsume have a hard time finding out what the scarecrows are saying. In the original Japanese it's written in hiragana. とおかんや (tookanya) as obviously, Natsume won't be able to hear kanji. Natori speculates it could be written as 十日夜. Only later in the chapter, Yorishima explains it should be read as 十完夜. But of course all of this didn't translate very easily to English, because English doesn't have different character sets like that. So I had to come up with something else.

十日夜 (Tookanya/Tookaya) [lit. Tenth night] refers to the harvest festival that takes place on the 10th night of the 10th lunar month. It's celebrated from North Kanto region to the South Tohoku region. It's the day people thank the agricultural kami. (田の神) for their help in securing a good harvest, and send them off to the mountains. In Nagano prefecture there appears to be a custom where the scarecrows are worshiped as gods. At the end of the harvest they are taken from the fields and placed in the garden. They are given straw hats to wear, a broom or rake and rice cakes to accompany them on their way to heaven or on their road to become a full fledged mountain kami. The harvest festival seems loosely related to 十五夜 (Juugoya), also know as 月見 (Tsukimi), a festival on the 15th night of the 8th lunar month to honor the Autumn moon. (The 15th night is always a full moon) And 十三夜 (Juusanya) on the 13th night of the 9th lunar month, to celebrate the waxing moon. You can find similar festivals all over Asia (Mid Autumn festival).

十完夜 (Tookanya) [lit. Completes at the tenth night] I translated it as 'Ten Loony Nights'. Loony doesn't just mean mad or silly, it's also an abbreviation of Lunatic. Lunatic originates from the Latin word Luna (moon) and the old belief that the changes of the moon could cause insanity. Although it's far from its literal meaning "Ten Loony Nights" seemed the perfect choice, because it conveys the mad game of the ayakashi, but also allowed me to create a link to the lunar calendar related harvest festival that caused confusion in the original Japanese.

Sakuma Riku

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月刊ララ

1

祝!! 連載50回 巻頭カラー

ラストゲーム

天乃忍　HC⑨巻12月4日（金）発売

直筆年賀状

毎年恒例!
2016 LaLa
オールスター

よみきり
箭[illegible]　海の狼と宝眼の剣
ウラカタ!!
君のコトなど絶対に
ユキは地獄に堕ちるのか
図書館戦争 LOVE WAR 別冊編
狼陛下の花嫁
水玉ハニーボーイ
花嫁と破魔の騎士
4ジゲン　姫姑教室

NEW YE[illegible]

赤髪の白雪姫 スケジュールブック2016

[illegible]目友人帳
[illegible]川ゆき
HC 巻
[illegible]2月4日（金）発売

[illegible]カ
[illegible]林みかせ

園ベビー

最新HC⑫巻発売中!

ンリタズ

時計野はり

晴海ひつじ

大反響につき新連載!

CHAPTER 61: THE GARDEN OF THOSE DAYS

NATSUME'S BOOK OF FRIENDS

Rattle

I'M HOME.

TAKASHI-KUN, WELCOME BACK.

YES, IT IS. NOW WHERE SHALL I PLANT THEM?

WOW, SO MANY.

THAT'S NICE.

I RECIEVED SOME SEEDLINGS FROM THE NEIGHBORS DOWN THE STREET.

LOOK, AREN'T THEY CUTE.

HOTARU NO MORI E

Midorikawa Yuki

Look forward for our new project,
a side story from Hotaru no Mori e
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more updates
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A FLOWER BED?

OH, TAKA-SHI. I'M HOME!

WELCOME BACK, SHIGERU-SAN.

THERE IS NO MORE ROOM IN THE FLOWER BED IN THE FRONT YARD.

IF IT'S ALRIGHT WITH YOU, COULD YOU TELL ME HOW TO MAKE A NEW ONE?

...I'D LIKE TO GIVE IT A TRY.

IS THERE AN OPEN SPOT IN THE GARDEN THAT I CAN USE?

HM?

TOUKO-SAN WAS GIVEN SOME SEEDLINGS, BUT THERE'S NO MORE ROOM IN THE FLOWER BED.

AND,
LIKE THAT
I STARTED
TO MAKE A
FLOWER BED

YES, OF COURSE.

I PLANNED
TO KEEP IT
SIMPLE.

PILE STONES IN THE CORNER OF THE GARDEN TO MAKE AN ENCLOSURE THEN FILL IT WITH FERTILIZER AND DIRT

HM, YOU'RE GOING TO TURN ONE OF MY FAVORITE NAPPING SPOTS INTO A FLOWER BED...

YOU THINK YOU CAN ACTUAL-LY DO IT?

IT DIDN'T SOUND THAT HARD WHEN SHIGERU-SAN EXPLAINED IT TO ME.

HE EVEN GAVE ME STONES I CAN USE.

COME AND HELP ME CARRY THEM.

WHAT !?

I WAS GLAD

I SAID FLOWERS.

.... SOYBEANS AND GREEN PEPPERS?

BECAUSE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO GROW YOUR FAVORITE FLOWERS WHEN WE'RE DONE.

SERIOUSLY! WHY MUST A NOBLE BEING LIKE MYSELF DO PHYSICAL LABOR?!

THAT I COULD DO SOMETHING FOR THIS HOUSE

HEY, IT'S GETTING DARK.

WE CAN CONTINUE TOMORROW.

I'M SO HAPPY. TAKASHI-KUN'S MAKING ME A NEW FLOWER BED.

YEAH, I HOPE IT TURNS OUT WELL...

IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU NEED OR DON'T UNDERSTAND, ASK ME FOR HELP.

AND IF THERE'S A FLOWER YOU WANT TO GROW, JUST TELL ME.

THANK YOU.

A FLOWER I WANT TO GROW?

LIKE I SAID, LET'S GROW SOYBEANS, GREEN PEPPERS, OR PEAS!

AH, I JUST REMEMBERED.

MY MOTHER LOVED FLOWERS.

I THINK IT WAS MY DAD WHO TOLD ME THAT

I'M BACK ...

AH!

SENSEI, WHY DID YOU DO IT!?

LOOK, THIS FISH IS MY ALIBI! I'VE SPENT ALL DAY AT THE RIVER.

IT WASN'T ME!

Trot Trot

OH! YOU'RE BACK, NATSUME!

HM.

THE STONES ARE EVERY-WHERE ...

MESSY

AAH!

AGAIN!

ARE YOU A CAT SLAVER !?

.. THEN IT WAS PROBABLY A DOG OR A CROW ..

IT CAN'T BE HELPED. COME ON, SENSEI! LET'S CONTINUE.

BUT THE NEXT DAY...

SO, YOU'RE SAYING SOMEONE TRESPASSED JUST TO STEAL A FEW STONES?

...TONIGHT SENSEI, LET'S KEEP WATCH.

WHAT!?

WHAT?

THE STONES. THEY TORE THEM APART BEFORE THE CEMENT COULD DRY AND STOLE SOME.

...NO, SOME ARE MISSING.

..THIS ISN'T THE WORK OF AN ANIMAL?

Shiver

HM, IT'S HERE.

THAT'S ACTUALLY MUCH SCARIER

...UH, WHAT DO WE DO IF IT'S HUMAN?

RUSTLE

EH?

IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE FOR A HUMAN TO ENTER A GARDEN JUST TO STEAL ROCKS...

YES, I DO.

WE HAVE TO CATCH THAT STONE THIEF! AND PROTECT THE FLOWER BED.

NATSUME, YOU THINK AN AYAKASHI DID THIS, DON'T YOU?

Sneaky...

Wobble

Wobble

HEY, YOU!!

PUS

WHAT IS THAT BY THE FLOWER BED ?!

Wipes!

DASH

Eek!

DASH

EH!? THERE'RE MORE THAN I EXPECTED!?

JU

WAIT !!

WHO THE HELL ...

I GOT YOU!

NIMU PARADIS

Shiver

...GUH!

HEHEHE, YOU'VE CAUGHT ME.

TURN

OH, YOU CAN HEAR OUR VOICES AND TOUCH US?

...

WHY DID YOU DESTROY THE FLOWER BED?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THE GARDEN?

OH DEAR, I DIDN'T KNOW THESE WERE YOUR STONES.

I'M VERY SORRY, I'VE LOOKED FOR THESE STONES FOR SO LONG AND TOOK THEM WITHOUT THINKING.

... THESE STONES ?

BUT, I DON'T SEE ANYTHING SPECIAL ABOUT THESE STONES ...

WHERE DID YOU GET THEM?

Rustle
Rustle
Crowd
Crowd
Rustle
THEY'RE PURE STONES, THEY ARE VERY VALUABLE TO US.
... WELL,
... WHAT ?
... COULD YOU SPARE US A FEW?
NIMUARA
Rummage
Rummage
A WOODEN BOX. .?
... TREA-SURE ?
...AS AN EXCEPTION, I WILL SHOW YOU OUR TREA-SURE.
HEHEHE
...WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THEM...?

PLEASE LOOK INSIDE.

....

Rattle

INSIDE THE BOX,

OH!

IT'S VERY DETAILED, BUT...

OH, THIS LOOKS INTERES -TING. A MINIA -TURE GARDEN?

...THE SHRINE AND GARDEN BOTH LOOK NEGLECTED.

IT WAS A LITTLE HOUSE. IT LOOKED LIKE A SHINTO SHRINE

WE NEED THE PURE STONES IN ORDER TO RESTORE THE MINIATURE SHRINE AND ITS GARDEN.

THAT'S RIGHT.

IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S DESERTED.

THIS MINIATURE SHRINE IS THE HOME OF A KAMI.

IT CAN ONLY BE FULLY RESTORED WITH THE RIGHT TOOLS AND BY THE RIGHT PERSON

...RESTORE?

HEAVE----HO!

PLEASE, LEND US YOUR POWER!

STOP IT!

Ah!

YOU APPEAR TO BE QUITE POWERFUL.

NO, I'M JUST ...

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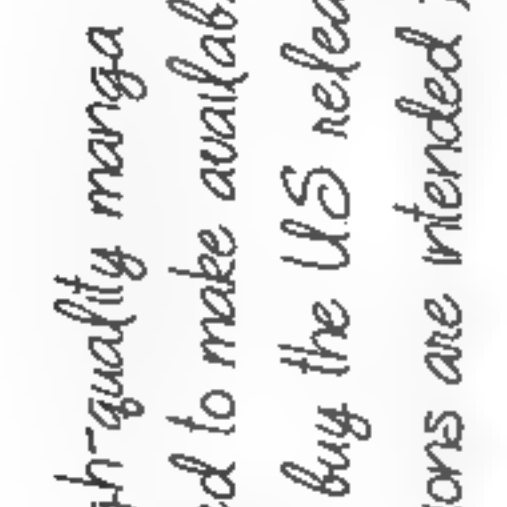

NOW, NOW,
PU PUT ...
WE WON'T PUT YOU DOWN UNTIL YOU HELP US.
BANG
WHACK
WHA!
EEK!
BONK
SMACK
YOU STUPID DARUMA YOKAI!
WE TOLD YOU TO PUT US DOWN!
YIP!
BON
MORE THAN EVER BEFORE ...
ST- STRONG ...
IF YOU DON'T, WE'LL CURSE YOUR HOUSE.
I BEG OF YOU, I BEG OF YOU.
WE WOULD LIKE TO BORROW YOUR POWER ...
!!! YOU MONSTER !!

ALL I WANTED WAS TO MAKE TOUKO-SAN HAPPY WITH A NEW FLOWER BED.

.....

I'M SO DONE WITH THESE GUYS, CAN I EAT THEM, NATSUME?

ALRIGHT, I'LL HELP.

WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?

OOH!

Tch...

WHEN YOU MEET AYAKASHI LIKE THESE,

LISTENING TO THEIR REQUEST IS THE FASTEST WAY TO GET RID OF THEM

WHOOSH

Chirp

Chirp

TAKASHI-KUN, GOOD MOR... AH, IS EVERYTHING ALRIGHT?

Ah!

...

YES, I'M FINE... I JUST HAD A STRANGE DREAM...

OH! DON'T STRESS TOO HARD OVER THE FLOWER BED, ALRIGHT?

THESE FIVE AYAKASHI

THEY ARE THE SHRINE-KEEPERS.

YES.

NO MATTER WHAT,

IT'S THEIR JOB TO PROTECT THAT BOX THAT IS HOME TO THE WANDERING KAMI, SHIDA HIMESAMA.

YES, THIS MINIATURE SHRINE IS A DELICATE PIECE OF WORK.

PROTECT? THAT BOX IS FALLING APART.

THAT'S WHY WE ORIGINALLY TOOK IT TO A SPECIALIZED CRAFTSMAN FOR RE-PAIRS.

EVERY TIME, JUST BEFORE SHIDA-HIMESAMA WOULD VISIT WE WOULD TAKE THE BOX TO ONE, BUT ...

BY NOW THERE AREN'T ANY CRAFTS-MEN LEFT.

COUNTLESS TIMES, NOW, WE'VE TRIED TO DO THE REPAIRS OURSELVES.

THIS TIME TOO, WE TRIED FIXING UP THE PLACE WITH OUR OWN POWER, BUT...

OUR HANDS ARE SUITED TO DESTROY DEMONS, BUT NOT TO HOLD TOOLS.

THE CURRENT STATE OF THE SHRINE IS PROOF OF THAT.

I LIKE THAT I SPENT THE DAY CREATING A FLOWER BED FOR TOUKO-SAN

AND AT NIGHT I HELPED RENOVATE THE TINY SHRINE.

ANY IMPROVEMENT IS ALREADY MORE THAN WHAT WE COULD ASK FOR.

....

...I'M NOT A CRAFTSMAN AND I HAVE QUESTIONABLE TASTES, ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?

YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO BETTER THAN US WITHOUT A DOUBT.

LET'S START WITH THE SHRINE.

USE THIS WHITE FEATHER TO BRUSH AWAY THE DUST.

YOU'RE SUCH A PAIN!

WE WOULD LOVE TO DO THAT, BUT WE CAN'T. IT'S A KAMI'S HOME, AFTER ALL.

WOULDN'T IT BE EASIER TO JUST BLOW THE DUST AWAY ALL AT ONCE?

OOH!

YOU MEAN LIKE THIS?

Shuuu

Shuuu

Shuuu

...

WITH EVERY CREAK I COULD FEEL JUST HOW OLD AND FRAGILE THE SHRINE ACTUALLY WAS.

DESPITE THE SOFT FEATHER, IT BECAME ALL THE MORE CLEAR TO ME.

... IT'S DONE !

... WHAT DO YOU THINK?

OOH, WONDER-FUL!

... THANKS ...

Flop

Fwip

Flop

Fwip

... THIS IS DEFINITE-LY NOT AS EASY AS IT LOOKS ...

THROB THROB

BE QUIET !

YES.

YES, BE CARE-FUL THERE.

IT'S VERY DELICATE.

GENTLY.

OOH, JUST LIKE THAT

YES, THAT'S

Gently...

NOW, TAKE OFF THE ROOF AND CLEAN THE INSIDE.

WHAT !?

SHUT UP!

Just blow away the dust, Natsume

Don't forget the room on the right.

Yes. like that ...

Sigh...

I SEE ·· WHAT KIND OF AYA-KASHI ARE THEY?

THEY'RE FORCING ME TO DO SOME CONSTRUC-TION-LIKE WORK

EH? BUT YOU SAID THEY WEREN'T BAD?

···YES, BUT THEY AREN'T BAD· SO, NO NEED TO WORRY·

TANU -MA ··

··· ARE YOU ALRIGHT, NATSUME? ···IS IT AN AYAKASHI AGAIN?

I DIDN'T TELL THEM, BECAUSE I FELT SO IRRITATED THEN.

BUT, THE SPACIOUS, LITTLE ROOM I FOUND UNDER THE ROOF WASN'T JUST OLD AND DAMAGED.

IT WAS ALSO BEAUTI-FUL.

AND THAT LOOKING OUT INTO THE GARDEN FROM WITHIN THE SHRINE-WOULD BE FUN...

IT'S LIKE I COULD TELL THAT IT WAS TREATED WITH CARE.

IT'S SUCH A SHAME THAT THE GARDEN ONLY HAS DEAD TREES.

THAT'S RIGHT.

NOW PAINT THE PAPER SLIDING DOORS WHITE, USING THE DYE MADE FROM THE PURE STONES.

Shake

Shake

UH...

A SKILLED PERSON WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PAINT IT MORE EVENLY.

...YOU'RE EXAGGER-ATING! MY PAINT JOB IS ETREME-LY OFF.

IT'S WON-DERFUL! WE'D NEVER HAVE HOPED IT WOULD LOOK SO BEAUTIFUL!!

OOOOOOOh

WHAT'S NEXT?

...I'M DONE! WHAT DO YOU THINK?

...

OUR HANDS ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM HUMAN'S.

SO HOLDING A BRUSH JUST TO PAINT,

HEHE,

PLEASE FEEL MY HAND.

OR A FEAHTER TO WIPE AWAY DUST IS VERY CHALLENGING FOR US.

WE WOULD EXORCIZE EVIL,

AS A HUMAN PREPARED THE HOME TO WEL-COME THE VISITING KAMI.

BUT, THAT'S NO LONGER POSSIBLE ...

SHIDA-HIME-SAMA IS VERY RE-FINED.

SHE LOVES BEAU-TIFUL THINGS.

WE'VE ALREADY ACCEPTED THAT.

SHE MAY NOT WANT TO VISIT THIS CURMBLING SHRINE AND ITS DEAD GARDEN EVER AGAIN.

BUT,

I'M SURE THAT SHIDA-HIMESAMA WILL BE PLEASED.

AND, VISIT US AGAIN.

WHEN YOU'RE DONE.

I'M SURE OF IT.

YET HER SKIN REMAINS GENTLE AS MOONLIGHT.

SHE'S BEAUTIFUL,

AND HER LAUGH SOUNDS LIKE CHIMING BELLS

SHE'S BEEN TRAVELING FOR DECADES NOW,

HER HAIR SWAYS LIKE WATER RIPPLES.

WHAT KIND OF KAMI IS SHIDA-HIME?

OH, I'M GLAD YOU ASKED!

WHEN SHE SCOLDS YOU HER FACE RESEMBLES THUNDER.

EVERY TIME WE WELCOME HER,

...

YES, SHE ALWAYS SMILES LIKE A BLOOMING FLOWER.

SHIDA-HIME-SAMA'S SMILING FACE.

THERE'LL NEVER BE A TIME

WHERE WE GROW TIRED OF SEEING IT.

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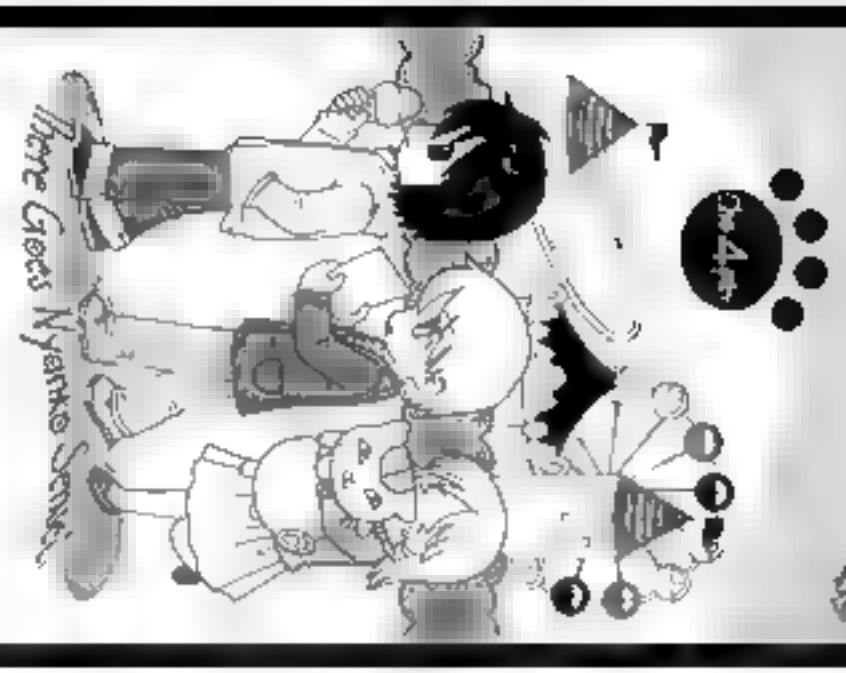
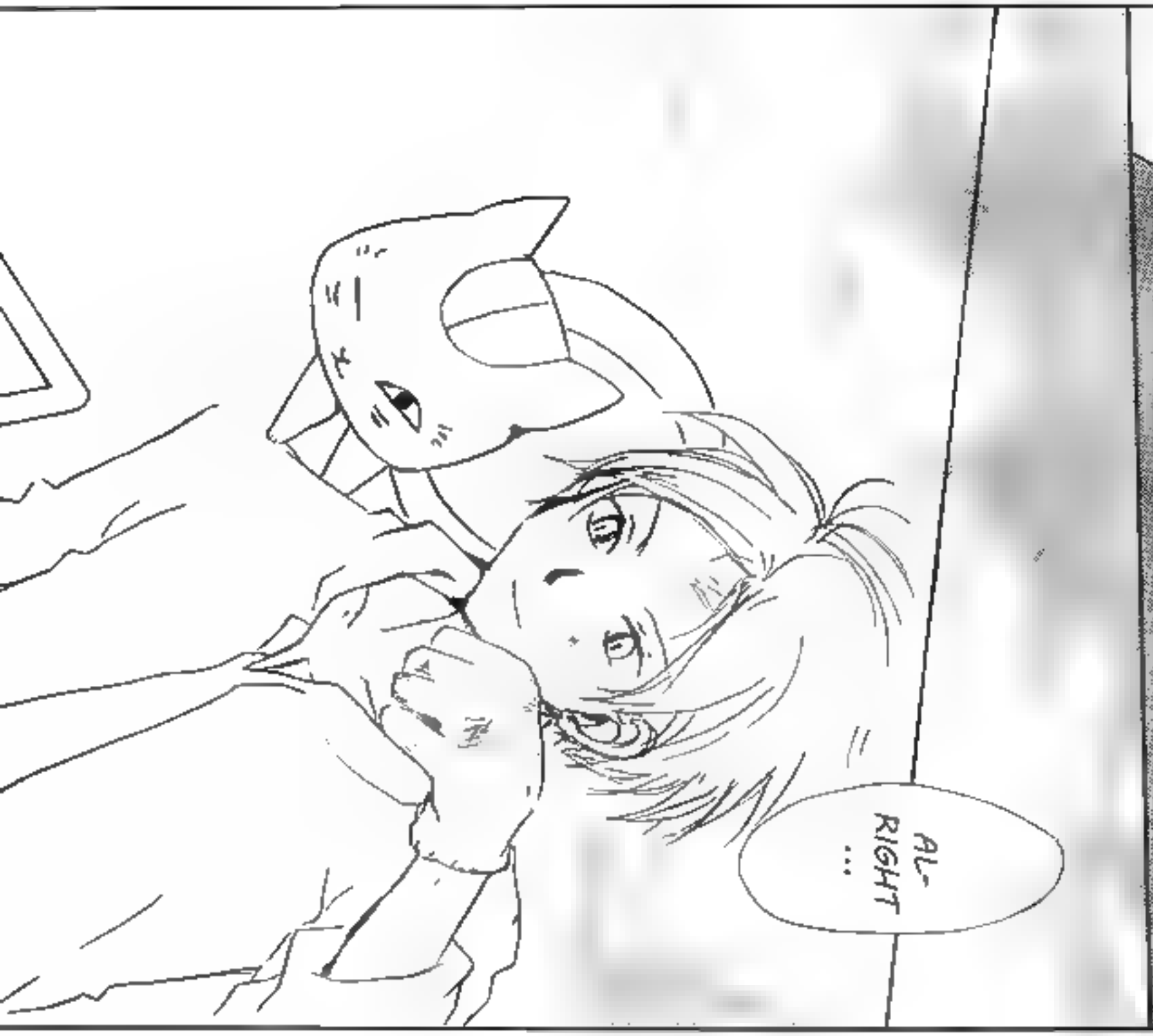
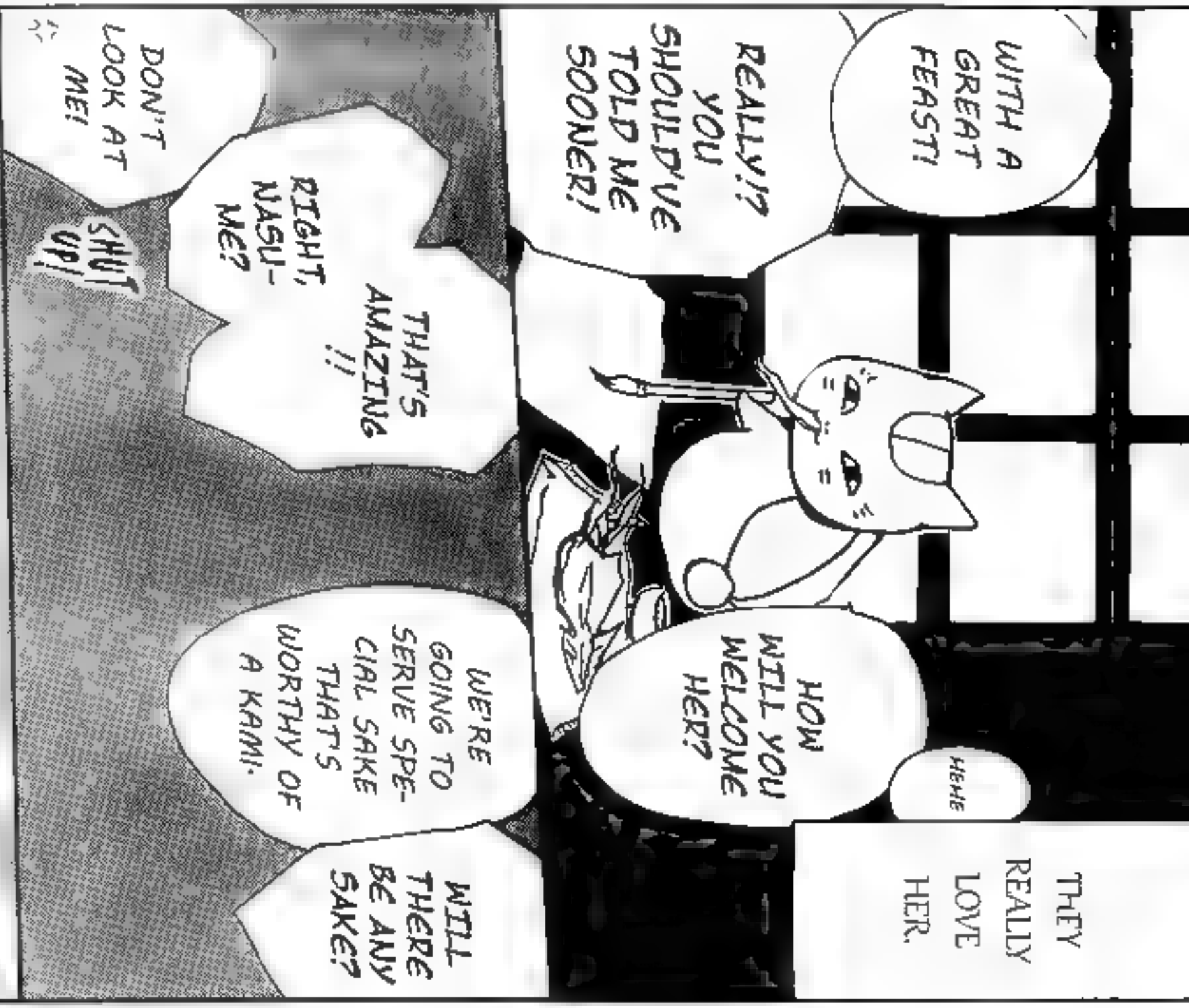





THEY REALLY LOVE HER.
HEHE
HOW WILL YOU WELCOME HER?
REALLY!? YOU SHOULD'VE TOLD ME SOONER!
WITH A GREAT FEAST!
WILL THERE BE ANY SAKE?
WE'RE GOING TO SERVE SPECIAL SAKE THAT'S WORTHY OF A KAMI.
THAT'S AMAZING!!
RIGHT, NASU-ME?
DON'T LOOK AT ME!
SHUT UP!

DON'T BE SILLY, IT'S BEAUTI-FUL! THANK YOU TAKASHI-KUN!

SORRY IT'S A LITTLE CROOK-ED…

WELL,

WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW… !!

IT'S DONE …

…OH, MY!!

THANK YOU, TAKASHI-KUN!

I'M SO HAPPY …

LET'S SHOW SHIGERU-SAN WHEN HE COMES HOME.

"SHIDA HIMESAMA'S SMILING FACE"

Well, well!! I'll have to give him a treat as well then!

Nyanko-sensei helped me to mix the earth.

IT'S OLD AND RICKETY,

AND THE GARDEN IS DEAD

HOW-EVER,

I WONDER IF SHIDA-HIMESAMA WILL VISIT THE SMALL SHRINE.

"WHERE WE GROW TIRED OF SEEING IT"

"THERE'LL NEVER BE A TIME"

THAT MINIATURE SHRINE

THEY STILL PROTECT IT

THE SHRINE'S RENOVATION IS FINISHED, THANKS TO YOU.

...BUT,

...WHAT ABOUT THE GARDEN?

WE'VE MADE IT IN TIME.

SHE IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE THIS EVE-NING.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

Rustle...

I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THEM BLOOM EVEN THOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHAT FLOWERS WILL GROW...

TO THANK ME FOR THE NEW FLOWER BED, TOUKO-SAN GAVE ME THESE SEEDS.

...HAVE YOU ALREADY DECIDED ON WHAT TO PLANT?

...IF YOU'D LIKE ME TO...

I COULD PLANT SOME IN SHIDA-HIMESAMA'S GARDEN.

IT WAS ALREADY DECIDED ON WHAT TREES TO USE, AND WHICH STONES, BUT...

AH!

BUT EVEN IF I DO, IT'LL TAKE SOME TIME BEFORE THEY BLOOM... AND THEY MIGHT BE TOO BIG.

I DON'T THINK WE'VE DECIDED ON WHAT FLOWERS.

THEN, CAN EVERY-ONE PLANT SEEDS? AND, I CAN SEIVE THE SOIL.

...
YES.

THIS SMALL GARDEN.

THAT'S KEPT SAFE BY ITS SHRINE KEEPERS

AND RESTORED BY THE CRAFTSMEN FROM TIME TO TIME

HONESTLY, IF IT'S POSSIBLE,

I WANT TO GO INSIDE THE BOX

I WONDER IF SHIDAHIME SAMA WILL COME

I COULD KEEP ITS BEAUTY FOREVER

THAT IS VISIBLE FROM WITHIN THE SHRINE,

IF ONLY THIS GARDEN,

Ah!

Zzz

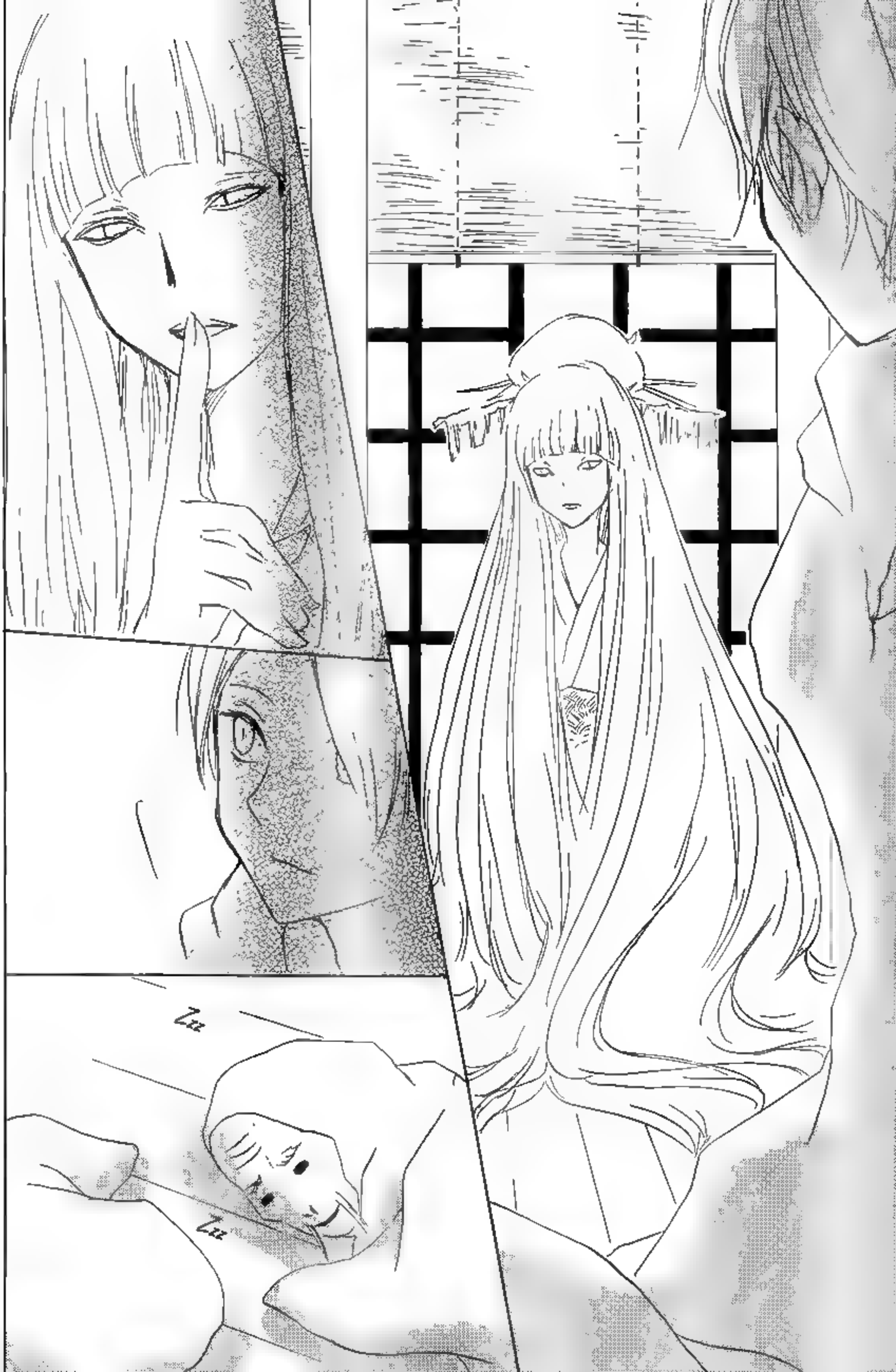
Zzz

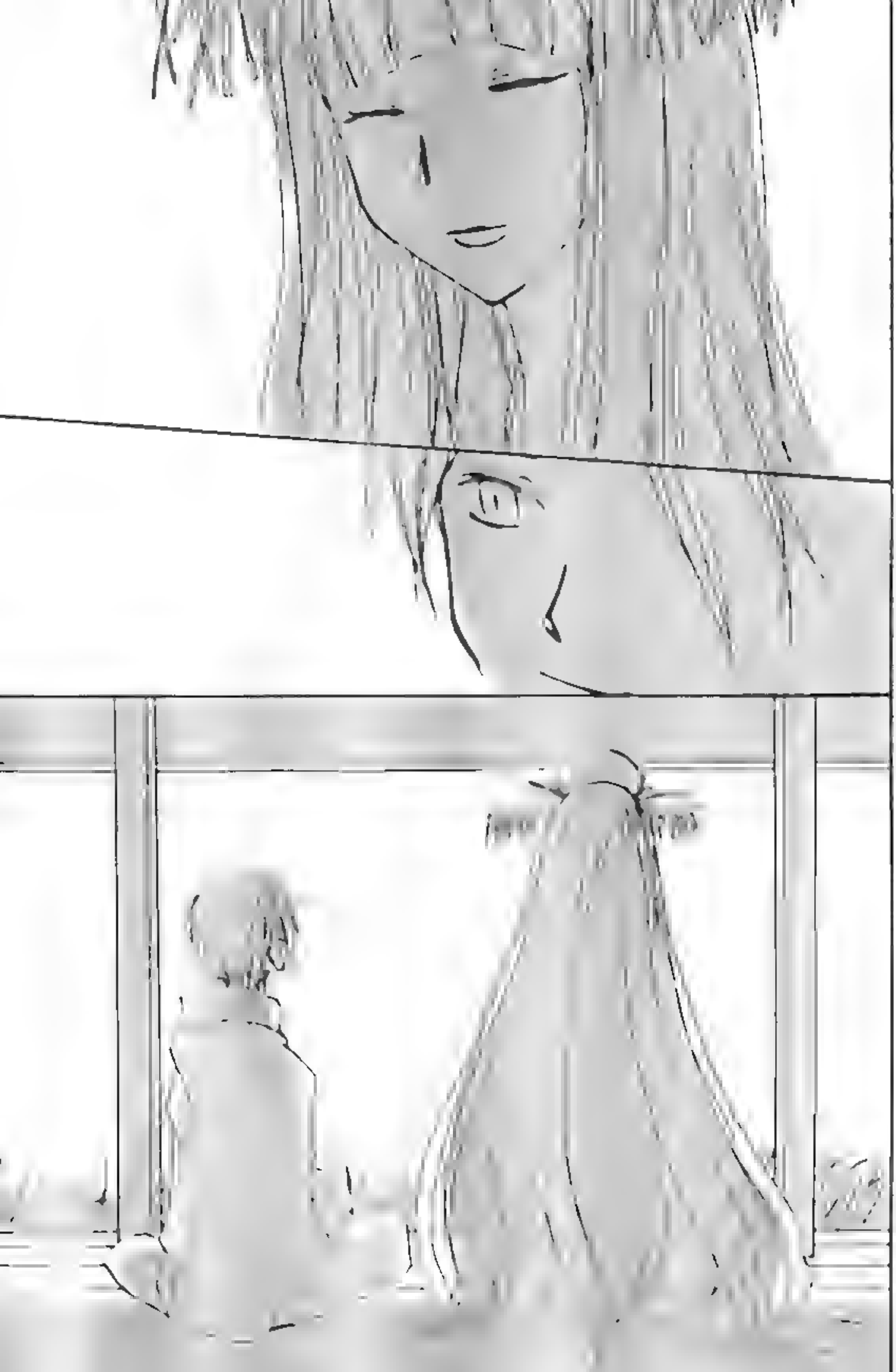
(!)

A STAIN OF WHITE PAINT ..?

THAT'S ..

THIS IS


Zzz
Zzz



THE VIEW FROM WITHIN THE SHRINE.

I FELT NOSTALGIC.

ATHOUGH IT WAS UNFAMILIAR TO ME.

LIKE I HAD SEEN IT BEFORE.

LIKE THE FUJIWARA'S GARDEN,

AND LIKE THE GARDEN,

I TENDED WITH MY FATHER LONG AGO.

IT WAS A VERY WARM GARDEN.

HM?

HMM ...

WHAT !?

SHI-

SHIDA-HIME-SAMA!

OOH, SHIDA-HIMESAMA !

OOH, ... ONCE AGAIN,

YOU'VE DECIDED TO HONOR US WITH YOUR PRESENCE ...

A BEAUTIFUL SHRINE

WITH A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN

THIS SHRINE AND ITS GARDEN

LET'S HAVE A PARTY

LET'S CELEBRATE TOGETHER

WHOOSH...

THEY FLOURISHED WITH SOFT COLORS,

THE FLOWERS WERE BLOOM ING IN A WAY I HAVE NEVER SEEN BEFORE

POSSIBLY JUST MEMORIES OF THIS GARDEN.

BUT I'M SURE, THAT AMONG ALL THE FLOWERS

THAT BLOOMED HERE UNTIL NOW,

SOME-
WHERE,

THE FLOWERS
THAT WE
PLANTED
ARE TOGETHER,
BLOOMING
TOO.

Ah!

THIS IS...

...MY ROOM ...?

Ah!

QUICK

THEY ALREADY LEFT.

AAH, THAT SAKE WAS DELI-CIOUS!

Gaun

.....WHERE ARE THE SHRINE KEEPERS?

I HOPE THEY'LL FIND SOMEONE TO HELP THEM WHEN THAT TIME COMES

IT ALL FEELS LIKE A DREAM.

I WONDER WHEN SHE'LL RETURN

I SEE ...

IT LOOKS LIKE THEY WERE ONCE AGAIN ABLE TO PLEASE SHIDA-HIMESAMA.

OH, TAKA SHI- KUN.

Creak

Creak

AH, YES!

TAKASHI -KUN, SHIGERU -SAN'S HOME!

COME DOWN- STAIRS!

STOP COMPLAIN -ING, SENSEI. ALL YOU DID WAS DRINK SAKE!

IDIOT, IT WASN'T A DREAM! THEY CAUSED SO MUCH TROUBLE!

YOU HAVE PETALS IN YOUR HAIR.

WHERE ON EARTH DID THEY COME FROM?

THE END

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POSTSCRIPT

Thank you so much.

Be it humans or ayakashi, Natsume is now capable of expecting and building relationships and taking first steps rather than worrying about a variety of things.

Because of that reason, I think he can now communicate and respond in a much calmer manner without letting his emotions show on his face.

When I began drawing Natsume, I didn't want him to be in a position where he manipulates the people around him into acting when they see his expressions, so I was cautious when drawing him. I felt happy seeing him being able to now walk up straight, but on the other hand also nervous because I no longer think I can continue writing his story just as I did up until to this point.

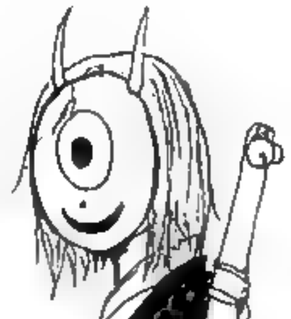
There'll be a lot of spoilers after this page, so please read it afterwards.

CHAPTER 78
Time Eater

This story was created because I wanted to draw something unusual and wanted to try drawing neither the present or past Natsume, but rather a version of him that behaves differently. I was debating who I should entrust the small Natsume to. Should he be at Yatsuhara on the youkai's side or the human's side with Tanuma and Taki?
After much thought I felt that Tanuma and Taki would make for a fun and new story approach and that the story should be written this way, since Nyanko-Sensei is already a youkai. I wanted to draw both Taki and Tanuma furrowing their brows and exchanging glances with Nyanko Sensei who'd go to Natori's place. In this situation I thought they would have more guts than the indefinite Natori, and thus the chapter led to a new discovery.

CHAPTER 79
Washed Away

While sitting in a food court, sipping my tea, and thinking about why I could not neatly tell this story, I envisioned a river in my mind. There, a small boat washed away, carrying a woman on board, whose face I could not see. Was it because she plunged her head in the water? What was she desperately looking for? Then the story began connecting together, scene by scene. Nyanko-Sensei became a tabby cat, even though he looked more like a tiger cub, but I'm happy to be able to draw a wild boar piglet version of him.



CHAPTER 80
Ten Loony Nights

It's a little embarrassing, but this and the "Washed Away" chapter both turned out better in their final stages than I imagined they would compared to when they were still in their written plot stages. I overcame the obstacles that came when working on a manga's initial stages head on, so even if I have a story I still have to submit the plot after making simulations of how I might want to tell it and which expressions I might want to use. Again, I want to someday be able to draw something that gives off a similar feeling of not being able to clearly see a scary figure, running across the countryside, through a car window while oddly feeling like it's right beside you. I'm happy I could once again draw Natori after awhile, but I want to draw Hiiragi, Urihime, and Sasago more often.

CHAPTER 81
The Garden of Those Days

I wanted to write a story that ends with a scene of falling flower petals and everyone happily shouting "We did it!". I wonder if I was able to draw it well since Natsume shows his feelings of wanting to do something for the group's sake more so than his usual reserved feelings. I felt uneasy while drawing this chapter since there're no threats or antagonists, so I was afraid readers wouldn't like it. But, many readers said they did so I also felt like, "I did it!" Then, while drawing the garden in this chapter I remembered the one in the home where I spent my childhood.

I can't thank you enough for following the story up to the 20th volume.
This story really is a valuable work that's bonding us together.
I'll continue working harder to make this story more enjoyable to read.
And, I will keep delivering it to you so please continue to treat me kindly.
My best regards.

To my saviors:

Onee-sama
Satou-sama
Houen Kikaku-sama
*

Thank you very much

** T/N: We couldn't translate the first three names.*

決定

伍

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年ぶり、あの感動にまた逢える。

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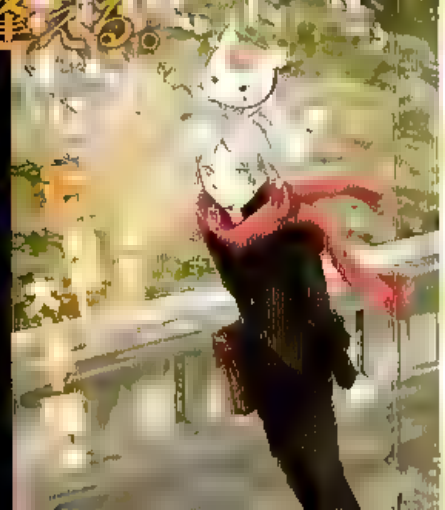

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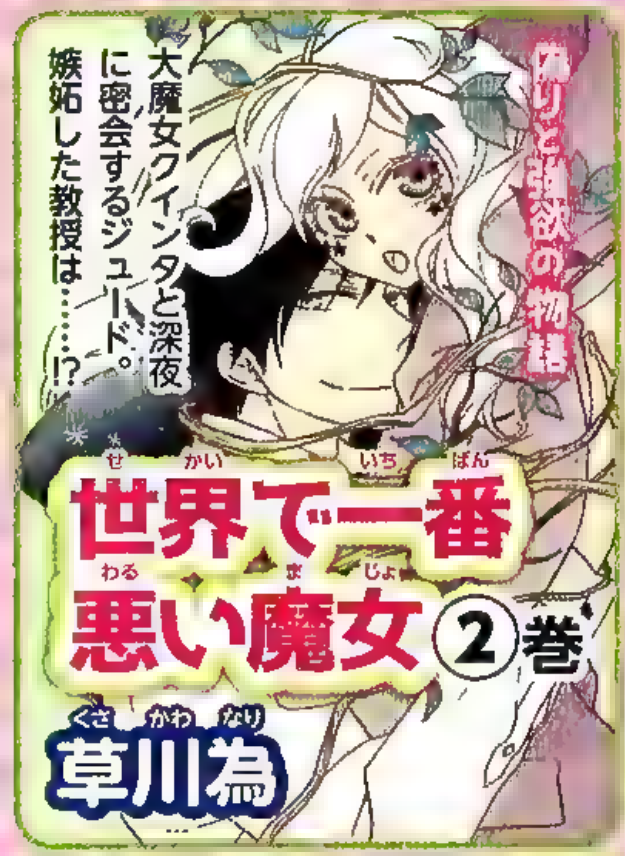

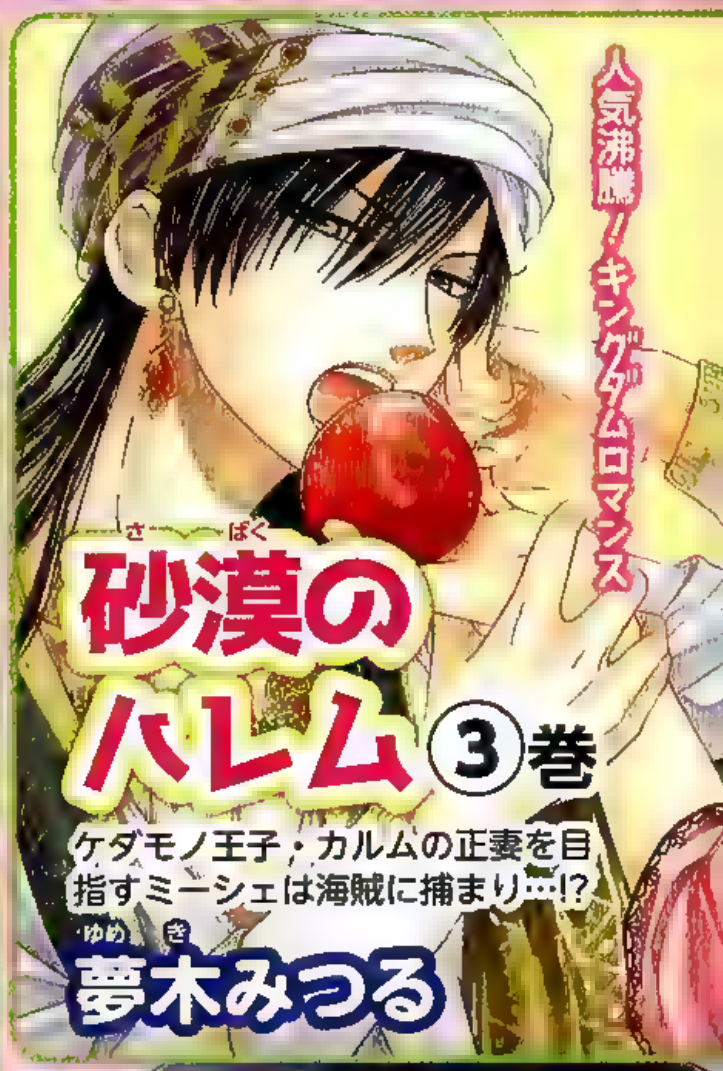

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放送日時　毎週火曜日 深夜2時35分～
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